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Casco Bay Weekly

The Year of
Living
Dangerously

MAR 28, 1996

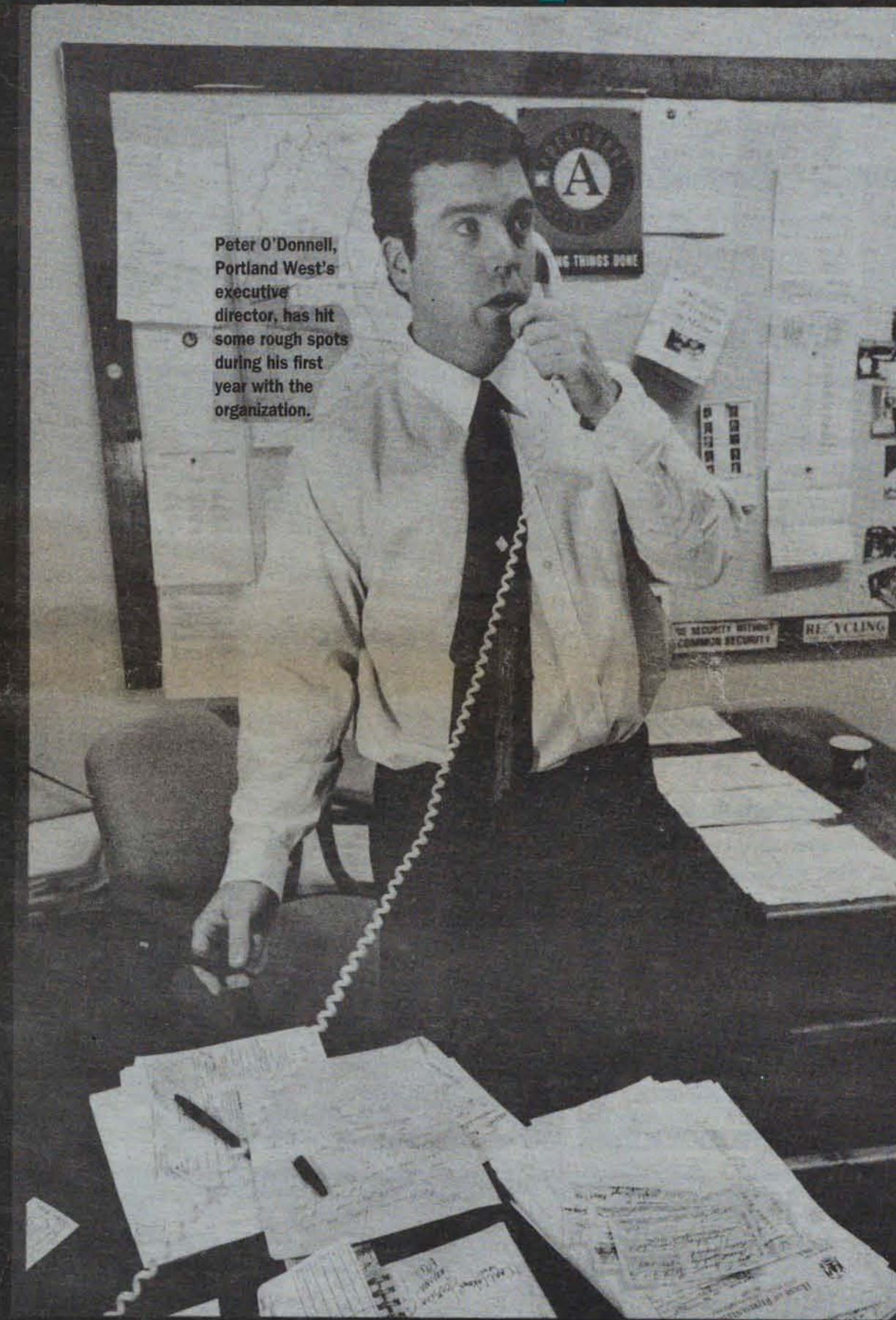
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Peter O'Donnell, Portland West's executive director, has hit some rough spots during his first year with the organization.

Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council and its new executive director, Peter O'Donnell, have survived a year of turmoil.

Just barely.

How much more can Portland West take?

COVER
STORY
BEGINS
PAGE 8.

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A CONVERSATION WITH JOHNNY APPLESEED



"PEOPLE THOUGHT I WAS AN ECCENTRIC, BUT I WAS A NICE GUY."

You know the legend of Johnny Appleseed — he wore a tin hat and coffee sack and planted apple trees in the Ohio River Valley in the early 1800s. Although Appleseed died in 1845, school kids in Greater Portland get to know him via Mark Persky, WBLM's morning show DJ. Persky visits area classrooms as Appleseed and tells the kids what Appleseed was really like.

Where are you from?

I was born in 1774 in Leominster, Mass. When I was a young boy, my mother died and my dad remarried a woman with nine kids. It was like a colonial Brady Bunch. When I was 17, my little brother Jonathan and I spent the winter in upstate New York. We didn't have anything to eat and almost starved to death. Then some Indians came by and showed us how to hunt and gave us some food. After the

winter was over, well, my brother and I didn't get along so well and we split up. I didn't see him again for 50 years. So I always advise kids not to spend a winter with their brothers or sisters in a cabin, 'cause you'll hate each other for the rest of your lives.

What did you do after you left your brother?

I decided to be an orchard man. I became involved in the Swedenborgian Church, a sort of a mystical Christianity. The founder, Mr. Swedenborg, believed all forms of life were sacred. I decided not to eat meat anymore. I never rode a horse again because I thought it was impolite to ride it. But I used the horse to carry apple seeds and stuff. I also decided that things like clothes weren't important. I began wearing a coffee sack and a tin pot as a hat to keep the rain off or to cook food in.

What about women?

I never married, though I once sort of adopted a young girl of about eight or nine. I wanted to bring her up as a pure angel of God, then I would marry her. When she became a teenager, she began getting eyes for younger men. I was in my 50s then and she took more of a fancy to boys her own age. That never worked out.

One time I accidentally stepped on a snake and killed it. I felt so bad I took the shoe off and went barefoot to punish myself. I went barefoot a lot to get over pain, because when you're in heaven you're all spirit and no body. I was trying to get into practice and rise above my body. And I did some self-mutilation. I would stick myself with pins and needles to rise above the pain. I don't tell kids that.

Interview by Christopher Barry; photo by Colin Malakie

What's happening at Stone Coast ?
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Former Congressman **Tom Andrews** is now former-president-of-People-for-the-American-Way Tom Andrews. Andrews resigned from the lobbying group in late March in a dispute over whether to concentrate on economic issues (as Andrews wanted) or civil liberties (as everybody else wanted). He's looking for a new job.

■ There's a good chance he'll find one. After all, Portland's director of economic development, **Virginia Hildreth**, did. Hildreth, who succeeded in preserving Congress Street as a world-renowned Museum of Vacant Windows, is departing to become assistant city manager of Lowell, Mass.

■ Tom Andrews probably should be looking somewhere other than **National Semiconductor** in So. Portland. The computer chip maker just announced its second

production shutdown this year, scheduled for April 12-20. There's currently a worldwide glut of chips, which has caused the company to cut back on manufacturing and slow down its \$600 million



expansion project. The problem is supposed to correct itself in the near future.

■ An opening Andrews could have filled was snapped up by a couple of boob tubers. **Charles Gibson** and **Spencer Christian** of "Good Morning America" will throw out the ceremonial first pitch of the season for the Portland Sea Dogs on April 12.

■ The guy who took Andrews' old job in Congress, Republican Representative **Jim Longley**, voted to overturn the federal ban on assault weapons, drawing sharp criticism from Tom Allen and Dale McCormick, the two Democrats seeking to replace him. Not all members of the donkey party were so harsh in their assessments of Longley's vote. Democratic Congressman John Baldacci of Maine's 2nd District also voted to repeal the ban.

■ There could be openings in the state Senate if incumbents keep cuddling up to lobbyists. Portland Sen. **Joel Abromson** raked in cash from a Blue Cross Blue Shield fundraiser, held just before Abromson's committee voted on a bill to allow the nonprofit company to convert to a mutual profit-maker. Then Sen. Majority Leader Leo Kieffer of Caribou and Sen. Willis Lord of No. Waterboro got caught in similar scams. All three insisted they couldn't be bought for a measly few thousand dollars.

■ Greater Portlanders like the idea of **recycling**, but hate the inconvenience, according to a Muskie Institute study. Regional Waste Systems doesn't plan to make it easier, but hopes to make it more expensive not to. RWS is supporting efforts to institute pay-per-bag programs in area municipalities, requiring residents to cough up cash to get rid of their trash. It's not clear why this is better than making recycling convenient, or if it will create a job Tom Andrews might recycle himself into. **CBW**



The signs, they are a-changin'. FILE PHOTO/COLIN MALAKE

State of flux

Reorganization is underway at the State Theatre

■ SARAH GOODYEAR

The crowd waiting outside the State Theatre March 23 for Bob Dylan tickets was an odd mix. Most visible were patchouli-scented 20-somethings blowing soap bubbles, wrapped in woolen ponchos, their dreadlocks flapping in the raw wind. Mixed in with them were people old enough to be their parents, who probably were fondly recalling their own patchouli-and-poncho years.

It was a feel-good crowd. Patrons were happy they'd get to see Dylan, and also happy they were helping to revive the State. But even as their credit cards were being processed, the status of the theater's management was still up in the air. A number of legal hurdles remain before State of the Arts, Inc. (START), the nonprofit organization that has stepped forward to take control of the theater's operations, is fully in control.

In a March 25 hearing in bankruptcy court, Michael Pearce, attorney for Perfect Pitch—the company that was running the State most recently and is currently seeking protection from creditors after filing for Chapter 11—said his clients were ready to assume the lease and pay the money they owe landlords Nick and Lola Kampf. The

Kampf's attorney, Tim Keiter, said that amount is between \$25,000-\$30,000. Pearce could not be reached for comment. Assuming the lease is the first step in transferring the theater's management from Perfect Pitch to START.

After Perfect Pitch assumes the lease, a judge will decide whether to assign it to START. In order to convince the judge, START will have to produce "a viable business plan, credible management and credible finances," said Keiter.

Scott Simons, a Portland architect who is president of START's board, is optimistic all the transitions will go smoothly. On March 21, the board approved a purchase and sale agreement to take possession of Perfect Pitch's assets, at a total cost of some \$41,800. "We're comfortable going ahead," said Simons, who has been involved with the theater from the earliest days of the renovation. "It's going exactly as we want it to go." The finishing touches are being put on the theater's business plan, which has not yet been made public, but which calls for about 30 shows at the State this year. In court, Pearce told the landlords' attorneys "we intend to furnish the business plan subject to confidentiality. We don't want that business plan

disseminated prematurely." What has been made public is that operating expenses have been cut by \$500,000, to \$1.65 million and the need for donations cut by \$200,000, to \$175,000.

Keiter said the landlords are still waiting to begin negotiating directly with START. "We're being told to talk to them but we're having trouble figuring out who to talk to," he said. "START needs to come out and be a good tenant and tell us what they're going to do and how they're going to do it." Keiter added that he still has concerns about liquor liability and hazard insurance, but "these are not big things."

Simons said the communication issues would be cleared up soon. "We're on the mat," he said. "It's a different organization now. There's going to be a dramatic change in the way [the business] is being handled week to week. We'll be looking at financials every week."

If the State could book Dylan once a month, the theater's financial stability would be assured in perpetuity. By the time the run on tickets was over, only a few of the priciest seats remained and START had a nice chunk of change to put in the bank. But not many acts can draw the same

kind of generational cross-section as the hoarse '60s icon. And in a small market like Portland's, broad appeal might be all that can pay the bills.

That's just one of the lessons that husband and wife Steve Bailey and Kelly Graves learned as they watched Graves' management company, Perfect Pitch, slide toward Chapter 11. The troubles began in earnest last summer. By year's end, the situation was desperate. In a recent interview, Graves and Bailey conceded they should have asked for help sooner. As it was, it took the theater going dark in January to bring out the community response they had hoped for much earlier.

"People began to call and say, 'Is it that bad?'" said Bailey. "Our standard response was, 'Yes, it is that bad, and the dignified thing is to know when to stop.'" Once the worst had happened, business leaders—including Joel Russ, president of the Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce—came out in force to try to revive the State, which had long been seen as a linchpin of Portland's putative arts district. "What we ended up with," said Bailey, "is what we were asking for all along—but not articulately." Graves agreed that the theater's management had been focusing on details at the expense of the overall picture. "Maybe our energies were misplaced," she said.

The START board has shown solid support for Graves and Bailey as management of the theater. Simons said, "We want to hire them to do the things that they do well, and we'll do the rest. They can run the theater well." Simons emphasized that many of the board members have extensive financial and banking experience and will provide "layers of support" for Graves and Bailey on the business end of the operation.

One of the much-touted changes in the management strategy for the theater is that more popular acts are going to be booked. "This is a marketplace that's squeezed for entertainment dollars," Bailey said. "People respond to recognizable acts."

Some things aren't going to change. There's no prospect that the Kampf's will lower the \$12,000 monthly rent on the theater. There isn't any immediate plan for a capital drive to buy the space. And Portland's entertainment market hasn't gotten any bigger. But Simons is determined that the theater won't go dark again. "There are controls now, checks and balances," he said. "I'm not going to let that happen."

Mountain Cats

Where's Manute?

What's happening with Portland's new pro team?

Manute Bol—the extremely tall and much-touted star of the Portland Mountain Cats basketball team—was supposed to be at T-Birds on March 19 for a press conference and to sign his contract. He

didn't show and no one from the Cats bothered to inform the media. "He's the star attraction... but Manute dissed us," explained Mark McClure, president, general manager and minority owner of the Mountain Cats. "We had all these plans for him." According to McClure, Bol had problems connected to a bar and restaurant he owns in Washington D.C. "His bar manager quit," McClure said.

When Bol's manager, Frank Catapono, was initially contacted, he said "Manute had to go before the bankruptcy court." Asked about the difference in stories, McClure said, "That pisses me off. Catapono told me not to say anything about Manute's financial problems." Later, through McClure, Catapono revised the reason why Bol didn't make it to Portland. "Catapono said Manute was having problems with the management of his restaurant."

Bol still hasn't signed a contract, according to his agent, although he has signed a letter of agreement. Later, McClure said that Bol had a contract in his hands and that he was "unequivocally going to sign with the Mountain Cats."

Is Bol pumped to playing in Portland? "I'd say Manute's not excited," Catapono said. "He really wants to play in the NBA. And he has a standing offer from the Harlem Globetrotters."

Dan Meisenheimer, of Meisenheimer Capital, is the majority owner of the Mountain Cats. Meisenheimer is also the founder and president of the United States Basketball League. He thinks Bol would be an asset to the team as a personality, but not as a player. "As an MVP, it's not likely," Meisenheimer said. "He's been cut from the [Continental Basketball Association] and the NBA."

Even if Portlanders were excited to see Bol shoot hoops in the Cumberland County Civic Center during May and June, they, as yet, can't get tickets. For the last month, McClure said tickets for the Cats' home games would soon be on sale. Initially he promised they would be available March 14, then March 25, but as *CBW* went to press, tickets still weren't available.

"I don't know what's going on," McClure said. "I thought they were supposed to be on sale. I already took out some TV ads."

McClure signed a contract March 22 with the Civic Center, paying \$13,000 for 13 dates. "I don't think we'll sell out a game," he said. "We'll be looking for between 3,500 to 4,000 people per game." That's about 2,000 less than he projected in an interview the week before. Nevertheless, if things work out, he said, "in 1997, I'll start another team in Bangor."

One part of the team is doing well already, McClure said. "Last week we held tryouts for a dance squad at the Pavilion. Over 30 women turned out. We picked 15," McClure said. The name of the "dance squad"—what a normal person would call cheerleaders—will be The Port City Dancers. "They're a good-looking bunch," he said. "They know all the dance moves."

CHRISTOPHER BARRY

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outta my Way

■ ELIZABETH PEAVEY

Damned old dog

It all started the afternoon Al Diamon's dog barfed in my car.

Well, that's not exactly true. It started long before, but the incident revived the intensity of my dislike for dogs with such vigor, it felt like starting all over again.

I'm not exactly wild about dogs. The problem is, Portland is a very doggy city in a very doggy world. Lack of dog-love is *très* outré. Most of my friends either own (one or more) dogs, have owned dogs, are thinking about owning a dog or would at least like to own a dog. And at the very least, they google over every dog they see on the street like it's a free pint of beer.

This makes for a lot of strained silences and fake smiles when the topic of dogs comes up. I used to state that I didn't like them, and people would gaze back on me with horror. "How can you not like dogs?" they'd say, looking as though I had just said I was going out campaigning for Pat Buchanan. Now I just make a tight-lipped grin and stare at the underside of my bangs until the topic has passed. But answering their queries about why I don't like dogs is, in fact, very easy.

First, there's that crotch-sniffing thing. In the same way a cat will always find the lap of a cat-hater, my crotch is a big target for dogs. Worse, dog owners are oblivious when the crotch-sniffing is taking place or find it endearing. "Look!" (Nuzzle, nuzzle) "He likes you!" I try to push the sniffing head away, but dogs must have elastic tendons in their necks that make their heads spring back with every shove. It becomes a big game for everyone's amusement but my own. If you don't know the dog owner well, you have to stand and pretend the crotch-sniffing isn't happening. If you know the dog owner, you can curl up into the fetal position on the floor and cry out for the sniffer to be called off. Of course, this then puts you in danger of being licked.

The licking thing. Can there be any more foul odor than the breath of a dog? Can there be any greater punishment than that smell accompanied by the lolling slap of a tongue? Have you ever seen what dogs eat? If a dog chose its menu, it would consist solely of things in a state of decomposition. The same elastic tendons are at work in dogs when they're getting in your face. Push, spring, pant pant, lick. It almost makes the crotch-sniffing preferable.

Then there are the myriad other smells (all foul) dogs emit, the barking, the jumping-up, the chewed shoes and furniture and the rather off-putting oral cleaning (because they can) of their reproductive areas, accompanied by very loud lapping or muzzling sounds. My list continues, but I think you get my drift.

Yet I can't damn a dog for how it smells or for the fact that it's not too bright or that it likes to root around in ordure and carrion. Some people find these characteristics charming, and so be it. My philosophy is: Against dogs? Don't have one.

What really gets me about dogs is their owners. I don't mean any of my dog-owning or dog-loving friends who are slaves to dog walks, feeding times and the endless purchase of chew toys, and whose behavior is loving and exemplary in every area of pet care. I'm talking about those dog owners who are not responsible. The ones who leave their pets in closed cars in the heat or the cold; the ones who leave them tied outside all day to bark (while I'm trying to get in my midmorning nap); and most particularly, the ones who don't clean up after their dogs on the street.

Plenty has been said on this subject — some have suggested returning the favor on the doorsteps of dog owners. I can't call for such a solution; I don't care from whence the poop came, I only want it to go away. And now that we're in the midst of our spring thaw, the crops of defrosting dog-doo are everywhere. The blessed rains will come

and wash all the poops away, yes, but I see from my window a pit bull in full squat laying seed for the next harvest.

The worst dog owner, however, is the cruel one. Not long ago, a group of friends — mostly dog owners or dog lovers — were gathered at a local bar. Happily, the subject was not dogs — until a dog was spotted outside the window, whining and howling in the freezing cold. It scratched at the window, it pawed at the door. Conversations were halted as we wondered whose dog it was and what we should do about it. Finally, someone went out and let it in to warm up. Eventually, a kid emerged from the bar crowd and put the dog back out and resumed his conversation with an eye-batting girl. Soon thereafter, one of my friends went out and gave the dog, which was trembling with the fury of DTs, a rubdown. We glared at the kid, more people went out to comfort the dog, we were becoming incensed. A friend was trying to dish some pretty good gossip, but I couldn't concentrate until something was done about the dog. Yes, even I — dog-hater of epic stature — was on the dog's side.

The kid finally got up and mumbled something to the girl about needing to go somewhere where they let dogs inside — as though it were the bar's fault that he found it necessary to pitch the woo in public, while his dog froze his shaggy butt on the street.

No, this incident did not convert me. I shall continue to take my dogs at a distance, thank you. And I am pleased my friends can be accounted as cool and responsible dog owners. But if they start taking up the face-licking, crotch-sniffing or hygiene practices of their pets, I'm going to have to lay down the law.

The bar? It's a smelly reminder of why I think they're all crazy.

Elizabeth Peavey, whose column appears biweekly, has recently been experiencing a recurrent nightmare of being interred in Western Cemetery.

Casco Bay Weekly

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Some of what the Production Department listened to while getting this week's paper out:

The Gin Blossoms, "Congratulations, I'm Sorry" • Tears for Fears, "Songs From the Big Chair" • Tracy Chapman, "Crossroads" • Various Artists, "Beautiful Girls" soundtrack • The Duke Ellington Orchestra, "Digital Duke"

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Respect

Maine's first black legislator has become a Green. Gerald Talbot of Portland, the only African-American ever elected to the State House, has dumped the Democrats to join the fledgling Green Party.

"I always felt like an outcast in the Democratic Party," said Talbot. "It was like being black in white America. There was a lot of noise and a lot of crap. I was never treated with respect."

Talbot left the Legislature in 1978, but has remained active in promoting the role of black people in Maine's culture and history, hardly an easy task in the second-

whitest state in the country. Talbot is currently at work on the Green's platform, which will be adopted at the party's convention this spring. "With the Democrats, there was never any-

body black working on those issues in the platform," he said. "If nobody but the same old people look at the issues, it's always the same old platform."

Not everything is perfect in the new party. Talbot is disappointed the Greens failed to do more recruiting. "We had momentum when Jonathan Carter ran for governor," he said, "but in the off-season, when it's time to organize, we didn't get it done. There's not a Green running for office, except [John] Rensenbrink."

Rensenbrink is just barely running. He missed the March 15 deadline for getting his name on the ballot as the Green Party's candidate for U.S. Senate. According to a press release, Rensenbrink fell "several hundred" signatures short of the 2,000 required from party candidates. He blamed "Maine's biased election laws," which limit party candidates to gathering names only from people registered in their party. Since the Greens have made little effort to convince voters to register, it's no big surprise there's a distinct shortage of eligible signers for Rensenbrink's petitions.

Now Rensenbrink has announced he'll run as an independent. While that means he'll have to collect twice as many signatures, state law allows independent candidates to accept names from any voter, regardless of affiliation or lack thereof. Rensenbrink has until May 28 to file his petitions.

Rensenbrink's failure to qualify means the Greens have all but squandered the automatic ballot status they won in 1994. While the party still plans to run Ralph

Nader for president, it will be leaving the rest of the ballot, from U.S. Senate to dogcatcher, blank.

That's no way to earn respect.

Outsider

The only Mainer running for president has dropped out of the race. Russ Lacasse of Naples, a 36-year-old power transmission distributor, based his independent campaign around the intriguing promise to "show you how to personally save money and reduce your taxes with money you probably don't know you have."

Maybe that sounded too good to be true. Maybe Lacasse turned off voters by telling them, "I loved Nixon. He just surrounded himself with the wrong people."

In any case, his family and friends convinced him to give up. "They said, 'Why go for something you can't possibly win?'" he said. "So I decided to be realistic and run for Congress as an independent."

If you're interested in helping Lacasse out, be warned. He doesn't accept campaign contributions over \$9.99.

Name

It looked as if Democratic state Rep. Herb Adams of Portland was trying to get around term limits by pulling a fast one. The official list of candidates for the Legislature shows a Democrat named Herbert Adams running for the House seat in the Bridgton area.

Adams of Portland is prohibited by the new limits law from seeking another two years at the State House, and is one of the parties in a lawsuit seeking to overturn the measure. Adams of Lovell is a retired minister and school principal, who's challenging Republican incumbent Paul Waterhouse. The two Adamses insist they are not only not the same person, but are not even related.

Substitute

Democratic legislative candidate Douglas Villone Jr. of Farmington gets points for honesty. When a *Lewiston Sun-Journal* reporter asked why he was running, Villone said, "It's unlikely I'll be here in the fall... If somebody is really interested, they should run for the seat."

Democrats have had little luck finding a real candidate to challenge GOP state Rep. Walter Gooley. Rather than give Gooley a free ride, the party stuck Villone's name on the ballot as a "place holder." If a genuine contender turns up before July 8, state law allows Villone to drop out and the party to nominate a replacement.

Those who dismiss political criticism as a cynical distortion of the facts by someone whose true intention is to manipulate you into writing to this column, care of Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or faxing us at 775-1615, are correct.

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The Year of Living Dangerously

■ AL DIAMON & SARAH GOODYEAR

The Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council is better off today than it was 12 months ago. That's not much of a compliment. A year ago, the neighborhood housing and social services agency was in chaos...



The role of Portland West's board of directors is evolving. "We're not just coming to board meetings and voting," said president Liz Bryant. "Now we know what's going on, inside and out."

PHOTOS/COLIN MALAKIE

In early 1995, Portland West's wimpy board of directors was floundering in its attempts to deal with a dispute between its newly hired executive director, Peter O'Donnell, and his predecessor, Jim Oliver, over a lucrative secret contract Oliver had signed with Bruce Reeves, the agency's grant writer. O'Donnell appeared to be on the verge of quitting or being fired. City, state and federal funding sources were threatening to shut off Portland West's money supply. Some of the agency's social service programs were in immediate danger of being terminated. Others faced significant cutbacks. There were veiled

threats Portland West would be kicked out of its headquarters in the People's Building on Brackett Street. Almost everyone was threatening to sue almost everyone else.

By comparison, the situation today looks good. Oliver's expensive grant writer and many of his loyalists have been ousted. O'Donnell is on somewhat firmer ground. The board, for the first time, has asserted its authority to set policy for the agency. Government funding sources have been mollified and new private-sector money has been raised. Programs have been preserved, new personnel policies are being

developed, offices have been refurbished and paperwork has been computerized.

But all of this has come at a cost. Board members have resigned, some in frustration, some in anger. Senior staffers have quit or been fired. And Portland West faces a potentially crippling lawsuit filed by Neil Taliento, the popular and successful architect of YouthBuild, the agency's model program for at-risk youth. The Taliento case has called into question just how far Portland West has come in healing the wounds from last year's ferment.

He said, he said

Taliento insisted that the last thing he wants to do is hurt Portland West. "I'm in no way trying to bankrupt Portland West or hurt the agency or its programs," he said. "To me this whole incident is a moral issue, it's a wrong that's been done to me." But Taliento might end up hurting the agency that employed him for six years anyway. The events leading to his dismissal last November splashed Portland West's troubled internal affairs on the front page of the daily newspaper. Five board members resigned over O'Donnell's decision to let Taliento go. And now Portland West is facing a lawsuit in which Taliento is seeking an unspecified amount of money for damages.

What exactly led to Taliento's dismissal? It depends on who you ask, but a few facts are beyond dispute.

The controversy began quietly enough. It all started with a Nov. 11, 1995, article in the *Portland Press Herald*, a positive story describing a two-week trip that YouthBuild members were taking to South Carolina to study under master builders, learning construction techniques in preparation for the restoration of a YouthBuild-owned house on Spring Street in Portland. The story caught the attention of staffers at the state Department of Human Services (DHS) because the 16-year-old boy named in the story's lead — a YouthBuild student — was a ward of the state and DHS had been looking for him.

According to Police Chief Mike Chitwood, the youth in question had been arrested in August for breaking into cars, had escaped from the Maine Youth Center, been rearrested and then been reassigned to a group home in early September. Less than a week after his arrival there, he disappeared again. DHS workers, charged with legal guardianship of the boy, had been unable to locate him. Until, that is, they saw the newspaper article.

On Nov. 14, DHS officials called YouthBuild to find out more about the boy's whereabouts and when he would be getting back to Portland. A staffer who fielded the call informed Taliento of the problem and the director set about finding out what he could about the kid in question. What he discovered was the youth had falsely represented himself as an emancipated minor on his YouthBuild application. Taliento said that the emancipated minor status should have been "a red flag" and the application should have been doublechecked, a procedure he said was standard policy. Current YouthBuild staff in Portland said such checks have never been policy and a national YouthBuild administrator confirmed that. It didn't happen this time, anyway.

Taliento spoke to the DHS caseworker — the youth's legal guardian — although he did not reveal precisely where the teenager was or when he would return to Portland. Over the next two days he consulted with YouthBuild staff members about what course of action to take. He spoke to the boy's lawyer. He called the group home that had been the boy's latest court-ordered residence.

He didn't call Peter O'Donnell.

Taliento decided to wait until a regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 16 to tell his boss about the problem. That decision may have cost Neil Taliento his job. O'Donnell says he learned of the situation from another YouthBuild staffer on Nov. 15. O'Donnell had completed a performance evaluation of Taliento the month before that had emphasized the importance of increased communication. The executive director was shocked that he had not been immediately informed by Taliento of the unfolding problem. O'Donnell contacted Taliento regarding the incident. On the morning of Nov. 17, the day the group was due back, O'Donnell called the police with flight information. O'Donnell said he made the call because Taliento refused to do so.

Taliento reluctantly agreed to implement O'Donnell's decision to have the youth arrested at the airport rather than allowing the boy to turn himself in. The arrest took place without incident. Although there was talk of charging Taliento with harboring a fugitive, a police investigation led to Cumberland County District Attorney Stephanie Anderson deciding not to pursue the charges. The youth in question was returned to the group home and re-entered the YouthBuild program, where he is by all accounts a model student.

But the matter didn't end there. On Nov. 27, O'Donnell called the YouthBuild director into a meeting and told him he was fired for insubordination. Liz Bryant, president of Portland West's board, said the executive director shouldn't bear the blame for Taliento's dismissal. "Peter didn't fire Taliento," she said. "All he did was make a recommendation to the personnel committee. The personnel committee had several options. After considering them, they still chose to fire Neil."

Taliento was stunned. "Everything was going real, real well and all of a sudden, with no discussion, no real notice, I was fired. It's baffling to me." He insisted that

Neil Taliento's independence, Peter O'Donnell maintained, was symptomatic of the kind of disunity that had plagued Portland West in the past.

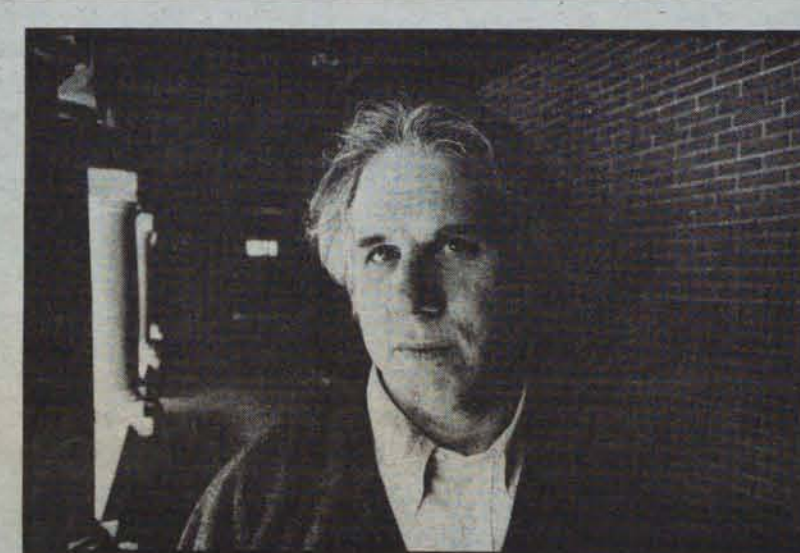
he still doesn't think he acted improperly. "I was doing my job as I understood it, that's why I didn't go directly to the executive director," he said, emphasizing that he was hired for "my professionalism and my ability to handle and manage these very types of situations. Not only did I understand it to be my responsibility but I was praised and rewarded and given raises and commendations for handling it [this way]. Understand my mindset and my feeling of commitment to the student and the agency and the community. I needed to know

everything about this situation so that I could give [DHS] and my boss and everyone else my 2 cents of professional input on how best to handle it."

O'Donnell saw it differently. Taliento's independence, he maintained, was symptomatic of the kind of disunity that had plagued Portland West in the past. O'Donnell also said that, while he recommended that Taliento be given the biggest raise possible after his October review, his evaluation had documented a need for greater communication — documentation O'Donnell said was adequate notice for the firing.

For O'Donnell, the possible repercussions of Taliento's failure to contact the police and give flight information to DHS were frightening. "I was concerned that if this young person had gotten hurt then we would have had a major liability issue," he said. "Second, people in the public expect us to be able to cooperate with DHS workers and the police. The DHS worker said,

"I'm in no way trying to bankrupt Portland West or hurt the agency or its programs," said fired YouthBuild director Neil Taliento. "To me this whole incident is a moral issue, it's a wrong that's been done to me."



"Look, Peter, I am going to report you to all your funding sources for your lack of cooperation." I was shocked that he was telling me that he had asked Neil six times, "Where is my kid? I am the legal guardian, where is my kid?" And he was refused information." Taliento said the DHS worker was "rude and confrontative" during their conversation and unwilling to work together toward a solution.

The incident was the end of what had been a somewhat distant working relationship. Taliento admitted his interaction with the executive director had been "independent," although he recalled going before the board early in O'Donnell's tenure to argue in his favor when O'Donnell's job was at stake. Regina Fontaine, a Taliento supporter who quit the Portland West board to protest his firing, conceded Taliento wasn't much of a team player. "Neil bucks the system," Fontaine said. "He and Jim [Oliver] always butted heads."

O'Donnell thought the stakes were high enough in this case that only dismissal — not suspension — would be appropriate. "It just [didn't] seem like this relationship [was] going to work for the agency," he said.

In the months since he was fired, with his financial situation worsening and no other employment on the horizon, Taliento

has done just about everything possible to get his job back. He appealed O'Donnell's action to Portland West's board of directors, but the board split down the middle over the issue. The 7-7 vote left Taliento still out of a job.

Taliento rejected a series of severance packages offered by O'Donnell in the months after his dismissal, holding out for a two-year, \$100,000 consulting contract, a deal O'Donnell said Portland West couldn't afford. On Feb. 29, Taliento went down the last remaining avenue open to him and filed a lawsuit seeking damages. The suit alleges breach of contract. But that's not all it alleges.

Missing funds?

Taliento's lawsuit against Portland West also raised another disturbing issue. In a news release from his lawyers, Taliento claimed the agency was misusing funds. "Grants I had written and applied for to benefit YouthBuild came in, but

YouthBuild never saw the funds," the release quoted the former director as saying.

In his court complaint, Taliento said he questioned O'Donnell about where money from three grants for YouthBuild went, but received no explanation. Instead, Taliento claimed there were subtle attempts to intimidate him. According to the document, O'Donnell "implied that Mr. Taliento should stop questioning [Portland West's] diversion of funds from YouthBuild Portland." Taliento cited two examples, both from the October evaluation, an evaluation even Taliento conceded was "very positive."

In the first statement, O'Donnell wrote, "Neil, as we move to becoming a whole agency of Portland West we hope you will join us." The second allegedly intimidating comment was, "Neil, your contribution to Portland West does not go unnoticed.... YouthBuild has helped Portland West establish itself as a leader in youth services. In the next year we all have to pull together to further all of our efforts. I look forward to your contribution with this."

Taliento said the comments were intended to get him to "play along" with the improper use of grant money. O'Donnell said the statements were meant to encourage Taliento to work more closely with himself and other senior managers.

O'Donnell said Taliento's "desperate" charges will be refuted by Portland West's annual audit, which began in late March and should be completed in late April or early May. "There's no evidence to support this," O'Donnell said. "The money went exactly where it was supposed to go."

The funding sources for the grants and the language of the grant documents tend to support O'Donnell. A \$20,000 Nynex grant, which Taliento claimed was "earmarked for YouthBuild," was written in such a way that the money could be used for any of several youth programs run by Portland West. Although Taliento charged YouthBuild "never received the benefit of any of the grant money" from Nynex, O'Donnell said the audit will show the program got part of the cash.

Taliento claimed O'Donnell was "unable to locate" \$8,000 due YouthBuild from a \$30,000 housing rehabilitation grant from the city of Portland. But under the grant agreement, the city was obligated to pay those funds only after the rehab work had been completed to its satisfaction. Since the project has not yet been finished, the money hasn't been transferred to the agency, and the funds appear to be residing safely in the city's bank account.

Portland's community development administrator, Mark Adelson, said part of the confusion over how grants are administered may be the result of sloppy accounting practices at Portland West during Oliver's tenure. "They're still sorting out their recordkeeping," Adelson said, "but the response is much better. The attitude's improved dramatically. The systems will follow shortly, I think."

One system that supports O'Donnell's contention grant money was properly spent is the one that requires the agency to prove to funding sources it has done required work before receiving any cash. Most major grant donors refuse to release money to Portland West until the agency documents the expenses it incurred and demonstrates those expenses meet the requirements spelled out in the grant documents. "It's not possible for funds to be mingled in other programs," said Portland West's accountant, Craig Tribuno. "Almost all our major funding is on a reimbursement basis."

Taliento claimed the grants from Nynex, Portland and the Public Welfare Foundation were not reimbursement grants.

Another problem with Taliento's charges of financial sleight of hand is that although he said he raised those issues with O'Donnell on "a number of occasions during the fall of 1995," he doesn't appear to have mentioned them to anyone else. "He didn't report that to the board during the appeal of his firing [in January, 1996]," said O'Donnell. "He never mentioned it during management team meetings. It came completely out of nowhere."

Regardless of when Taliento first voiced his concerns, O'Donnell complained that the former manager's charges are doing damage to Portland West's reputation. "This issue has hurt our fundraising ef-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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The Year of Living Dangerously

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

forts," O'Donnell said. "Maybe that's what he intended to do."

O'Donnell offers no documentation to back up that claim. In fact, the agency finished last year in the black, and appears to be on course to do the same this year. Contributions from businesses and other private sector sources are running ahead of 1995 when about \$60,000 was raised. Government funding, which makes up the bulk of Portland West's \$2.2-million budget, is also up over last year. All the agency's major grants have been renewed, most of them for two years.

"There seems to be more legitimacy in Portland West," said Portland City Councilor Charlie Harlow. "I feel more comfortable voting for funding than I have in the past. They're more responsive and responsible."

"They're well respected by policymakers in Augusta," said state Rep. Mike Saxl, whose district includes the neighborhood served by Portland West. "They're operating great programs that really meet needs in the community."

That's a big change from a year ago when an audit showed Portland West's recordkeeping was so sloppy the agency couldn't locate grant contracts, loan agreements or reports on completed work. Money was often spent without adequate documentation or any documentation at all. Board members had no idea what was going on, and no way to judge whether the agency was operating in a fiscally responsible manner.

O'Donnell, in one of his first acts as executive director, moved to bring board members into the loop by providing them with updated financial information. But first, he had to locate the loop himself. He discovered the agency's fiscal officer, John Nolan, had unopened envelopes in his desk containing five months worth of canceled checks. Nobody knew how much was in the checking account. Nobody knew whether Portland West was floundering in debt or swimming in dough. O'Donnell fired Nolan, and contracted with another nonprofit agency, Alpha One in So. Portland, for accounting services. That arrangement saved money, and helped assure some independence in financial assessments, since the new accountant, Tribuno, now briefs the board each month on the money situation. "We're not just coming to board meetings and voting," said president Liz Bryant. "Now we know what's going on, inside and out."

Even a critic like ex-board member Fontaine conceded, "Peter has brought in accountability. The board is more informed."

Nevertheless, the Nolan firing caused public relations problems for Portland West. Because O'Donnell refused to dis-

miss what had happened publicly, the dismissal added to the impression the agency's upper management was in turmoil and fueled rumors of a purge of Oliver loyalists. According to Fontaine, the Nolan and Taliento incidents had a big impact on employees. "Throughout the staff, there's an aura of 'who's next?'" she said. "A lot of people wonder if, just because they were here before Peter arrived, are they next?"

Bryant said the perception of purges is erroneous. "Only two people were terminated," she explained. Three other staffers quit, although only one of those resignations appears to be related to dissatisfaction with O'Donnell. "When you have different styles," Bryant said, "you're going to see changes. Some people don't get along with new ideas."

As the Portland West board became more knowledgeable, it became more active. Membership was expanded to include not only low- and middle-income people from the neighborhood, but a mix of professionals, such as a lawyer and a mediator, with skills the agency needed. Committees were formed to deal with drafting budgets and overseeing Portland West's problem-plagued housing program. Board members who had always blindly accepted what little they were told by Oliver now began to show some independence. O'Donnell encouraged that independence by allowing the board to exercise authority Oliver had assumed for himself. For instance, Oliver had always selected the firm to audit the agency's books, usually without bothering to inform the board of his choice. This year, the board made the decision.

No one disputes that a board with a brain will make Portland West a healthier organization in the long term. But the directors' independence and increased authority are adding to O'Donnell's problems. The tie vote that upheld Taliento's firing was seen by many as a sign the executive director was in trouble. "Peter took [the Taliento vote] as a referendum on Peter," said O'Donnell ally and Portland City Councilor George Campbell. "Support for Peter is still pretty narrow."

Taliento's continuing popularity and O'Donnell's shakiness are causing problems for neighborhood politicians unsure of who to back. The normally effusive Rep. Saxl, for instance, refused to comment on Portland West's management or day-to-day operations. Board president Bryant originally voted against hiring O'Donnell, but now offers qualified support. She said she thinks he's the right person for the job "at this point." O'Donnell conceded, "I don't feel I have

the most job security I've ever had in my life."

One factor contributing to O'Donnell's insecurity is his relative lack of experience and education. He's the only high-ranking staffer at the agency without a master's degree. At age 34, he's worked as a psychiatric technician at Jackson Brook Institute, served two terms on the Portland city council (including a year as mayor), done a stint fundraising for Cheverus High School and played leading roles in several political campaigns. There's little or no work experience in administration or social services. "In many respects, he's still a kid," admitted Portland City Councilor Orlando Delogu. "He doesn't have an awful lot of formal education and background."

"Look at his résumé," said a staff member who asked to remain anonymous. "It shows he's well-intentioned, determined and totally untested."

"He's new at managing an organization, and he's learning as he goes along,"



At the moment, the agency's programs, particularly its programs for youth, seem to be very much alive. The power struggle at the top has affected actual services only indirectly.

demoralizing," Twichell said. "But would I say the staff is demoralized? I would say no. The reason is most of the staff is embedded in their projects and doing their service work."

In the short term, Portland West's programs are surviving and even prospering. For that to continue in the long term, the agency needs not only to clear up the Taliento controversy, but to resolve several lingering issues. The People's Building, where most Portland West programs are located, is still owned by Youth In Action, a splinter group formed by Oliver in the 1970s. Youth In Action is still controlled by Oliver's supporters, but has made no move to evict Portland West, apparently out of concern such action would be unacceptable to the neighborhood. Negotiations between the two organizations on a long-term lease or sale have been going on for months. O'Donnell said a deal is close, but Delogu is still concerned. "Portland West should not be a tenant in its own building," he said. "Title to the building and the rents should go to Portland West."

Progress has been made on mending fences with other social service agencies

At the moment, the agency's programs, particularly its programs for youth, seem

to be very much alive. The power struggle at the top has affected actual services only indirectly. At the height of the various crises that have wracked Portland West, its clients have continued to be served. Even O'Donnell's severest critic, former board member and Oliver loyalist Skip Matson, admitted the agency's programs "seem to be working on their own pretty well." Matson singles out the Neighborhood Improvement Project and the AmeriCorps program for praise in the work they're doing with low-income West End residents.

One staff member, who asked not to be identified, admitted morale has suffered as the troubles with top management continued. "It's ironic," said the staffer, "that the agency can actually be so effective at the street level."

Peter Twichell, who became acting director of YouthBuild when Taliento was fired, agreed. "Turmoil can be demoralizing and organizational change can

alienated by Oliver. The United Way previously refused to consider Portland West for membership because of the agency's failure to produce up-to-date financial records. But United Way executive director Meg Baxter served on an advisory committee that aided Portland West in its transition through turmoil. Baxter's involvement and O'Donnell's penchant for accountability have restored lines of communication, but it's still not clear when, or even if, Portland West will qualify for United Way funding.

In the past couple of years, Portland West has refocused much of its programming to deal with problems associated with youth. YouthBuild, Building Alternatives and AmeriCorps make up the bulk of the agency's social service efforts. The West End Teen Center, a drop-in program for high school kids, and Outright, a support group for gay youth, operate under the agency's auspices. But an emphasis on young people may make Portland West's housing program an odd fit for the agency. The low-income housing project has lost money and led to disputes with the Maine State Housing Authority and the city over unpaid bills. O'Donnell wants to ease Portland West out of the housing business by finding a way for the agency's tenants to buy their homes. Ex-board member Matson and others oppose that plan, fearing the buildings will eventually be sold for high prices, reducing the housing options for low- and middle-income neighborhood residents.

Most importantly for the agency's future, Portland West must figure out where it's going. What seems to be lacking is a clear vision of the future. Asked what direction the agency should head once the current problems are resolved, O'Donnell said his role is advisory. "The board needs to define where we'll be three or four years from now," he said. Board president Bryant is vague about goals. "I want to increase programs in the neighborhood," she said. "I want more neighborhood involvement, so we'll be responsive to neighborhood concerns. I want us to be Portland West as Larry Connolly started it."

Connolly, a community activist and state representative, co-founded the agency with Oliver in 1970. He died in 1987. While most signs of Oliver's tenure as executive director have been removed from Portland West's headquarters over the last year, Connolly's presence still dominates the agency. His picture looks down on the desks of top staffers. Invoking his name is tantamount to calling on the patron saint of the West End. For many neighborhood residents, Connolly represents a time when Portland West's problems were less complex and its goals far clearer.

Complex problems aren't likely to vanish anytime soon. But clear goals could be Portland West's best chance to avoid another year on the edge.

Sarah Goodyear, CBW's editor, wrote the section of the story on the Taliento controversy; Al Diamon, CBW's political columnist, wrote the rest.

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LIGHT IN THE WEST

The conflict at the Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council over the past year has put a spotlight on the agency (see this week's cover story, page 8). This is, on the whole, a good thing. Years of secretive and disorganized operations had threatened Portland West's credibility, endangering the effectiveness of its programs. Yet it is important to remember that it is precisely the programs and services offered by the agency that are important, not the individual personalities involved.

On a recent morning the current YouthBuild class — some 30 young men and women who

a few months ago had little to look forward to and no sense of community — were sitting in the program's Brackett Street headquarters reading essays about the most important women

in their lives. One look at this group revealed the newfound self-respect that the program engenders. These young people are growing and changing human beings, not stereotypes of "at-risk youth." The program is so clearly useful and productive, it's a pity it has come to be associated in the minds of the public with controversy since director Neil Taliento was dismissed.

YouthBuild's acting director, Peter Twichell, is relatively new to youth services, having spent much of his professional life in community development. After seeing the YouthBuild model at work, he's convinced that making contact with young people is the best way to change the problems that plague our society.

"If we care about violence, crime, homelessness and housing," said Twichell, "we need to get invested in young people. That's where our communities are." Taliento's dismissal hasn't changed Twichell's commitment to YouthBuild. "Portland West and Neil Taliento put together a great program," said Twichell. "I'm going to do everything in my power to realize Neil's vision for the program. YouthBuild is going very well. It's a strong model, well-financed, and we've got the best team I have worked with in any setting."

The team approach is what has kept YouthBuild going since Taliento was dismissed. That's the way an organization like Portland West should be designed: with many people sharing responsibility so that no one person's presence or absence can put a program in jeopardy. Because in the end, the services that Portland West provides, especially for the city's young people, are much too important to be endangered by the inevitable disputes over procedure and decision-making that happen in any organization.

It isn't Neil Taliento or Peter Twichell or Peter O'Donnell who makes YouthBuild the vital program that it is today. It is the young people who have committed to changing their lives against all the odds.

Correction: In our article about lobster trap limits (CBW, 3.14.96), we incorrectly referred to Mike Kimball as a part-time lobsterman. He hauls full time.

SARAH GOODYEAR

comment

Too close for comfort

How can you close your ears to domestic violence?

■ JANE HARRIS

I watch from my window as my downstairs neighbor jerks her toddler by the wrist and shoves her into the passenger seat, buckling the seatbelt over the little girl's lap. She then grabs her face and hisses what appears to be a threat: a demand for silence, or good behavior, or else. I hear this little girl crying all the time.

I hear her parents screaming at each other, at her. I don't know what to do.

Am I misinterpreting what I hear? Since I can't see what is happening in the apartment below, I am always wondering if I should call the cops, call the Department of Human Services — or just go down there and intervene. At this point I've tried all of

I would like to help our neighbor's kid without jeopardizing my own living situation. This is proving to be almost impossible.

these solutions without success, and frankly, I worry that the anger boiling out of the downstairs apartment will be directed at myself or my partner. I would like to help our neighbor's kid without jeopardizing my own living situation and safety; this is proving to be almost impossible.

Our involvement with the unhappy scene downstairs began when one night the usual yelling and chaos segued into the sounds of things being thrown and broken. My partner called the police and we later found that when they arrived, the man downstairs was choking his girlfriend, with their toddler as a witness. The officers took him away — and the next day he came back. Apparently that was the extent to which the cops could get involved — she didn't press charges.

I called the landlord and told him what had happened. "I've never heard any complaints about them," he replied, making it clear that he didn't want to hear them now. Then I phoned DHS, and an aggravated, exhausted-sounding secretary answered. She told me that I had to file a formal complaint with the mother's name. I explained that I had no idea what her name was, and that I certainly didn't want to bang on her door and ask. Could I give them an address? No, they needed a name.

I waited to see if the situation would change — and for several weeks, it was fairly quiet downstairs. I thought maybe being hauled off by the police had made our neighbor re-evaluate his behavior. I still listened for anything that sounded troubling or abusive, always on the alert for things to get out of control.

Then, one night as I was drifting off to sleep at around 11:30 p.m., I heard the woman downstairs screaming repeatedly at her wailing toddler, the father's voice a low snarl in the background. I lay rigid in bed for 10 minutes, unsure about how to deal with what I was hearing. Should I call the police again? Should I wait and phone DHS again in the morning? I decided to go downstairs and talk to them myself. Bad decision.

Pulling on a sweatshirt and leggings, I padded down and rang their buzzer. The mother came to the door, obviously drunk, the little girl skittering behind in a diaper and T-shirt. I asked if everything was OK. She said yes, she was just trying to get her

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JURY'S OUT
STATE THEATRE
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MAINE'S MENTALLY ILL

daughter to go to bed. I said I could hear a lot of yelling and crying — was everything OK? She snapped, "Do you want to check her out?" making me think this wasn't the first time someone had questioned her treatment of her child. Her boyfriend appeared in the doorway and stood staring at me, as I told her that I didn't want to hear her screaming at her kid anymore. She slammed the door in my face, saying to him, "Everybody's a critic."

About a month later, I woke up to what sounded like someone choking to death — rasping, gagging sounds accompanied by violent thumping noises. I dialed 911, and told the dispatcher what I was hearing, my voice shaking. I said I thought somebody was being hurt, and that the kid downstairs was witnessing yet another violent domestic drama.

The dispatcher demanded to know my name, and I told him I did not want to get involved, but that someone needed to come immediately and investigate. He told me to calm down, and tell him my name. Was I a resident of the building? Yes, I said, and hung up. Two minutes later, the dispatcher called me back, and said, "Jane, why did you hang up on me?" He had kept me on the phone long enough to do a caller ID. At that moment the cops arrived and I heard them banging on the front door; I went to the window, phone in hand. I reiterated to the dispatcher that I felt threatened by the situation downstairs and feared my boyfriend or I might experience repercussions for "interfering," and slammed the phone down.

Minutes afterward, the two officers who responded to my call came thumping up the stairs and knocked on my door. When I asked them why they came to my apartment, they said the dispatcher hadn't told them I wished not to be identified. "Is this how you usually respond to domestic abuse calls?" I asked them. They shrugged, looking at each other.

Now when I see our neighbors, they avert their eyes. Nothing has improved — the screaming and fighting continues. I can't live with the idea that a child might be being abused or that a woman might be being beaten — so if it is necessary, I will give my name: to DHS, to the police, to whoever might be able to help. But I don't think I should have to, and I am furious about the way this particular domestic abuse case has been handled. As I walked by the downstairs window one recent afternoon, the little girl who lives there stood looking out, her chin barely clearing the sill. A small, purple bruise stood out over her left eye. Did she fall?

Jane Harris, not her real name, is a writer living in Portland.

ACTIVIST NOTEBOOK



A HEARTY MEAL AND A PLACE TO CALL HOME. There's no place like home. Unless, of course, you don't have a home. Then there's no place like Friendship House, a homeless shelter founded in 1985 by philanthropist Louise Montgomery and her husband, Claude. Montgomery also founded Faith House after Claude's death in

1990 with money donated in his memory. In honor of these two caring and benevolent souls, Friendship and Faith houses invite you to attend their banquet April 4 at 6:30 p.m., at Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St. Robert Hayes will speak on homelessness and the law. You can get on the guest list by calling 799-1577 or 846-1401. The meal is free but they'll be passing the hat.

WALK THE WALK. If you're sick of being told to put your money where your mouth is, then throw on your walking shoes and let your tootsies do the talking during Habitat For Humanity's third annual Easter Week Walk. Yes, you will have to do a little begging to get those pledges, but after all, it's not your money. And Habitat For Humanity lets you pick your date, location and distance. March 30 in Falmouth (5 miles), April 5 in Cumberland (20 miles) and Scarborough (10 miles), April 6 in Portland (6.2 miles) and Windham (3.1 miles) and April 13 in Gorham (10 miles). Call Janice Drinan at 772-2151 to register.

LETTERS



Casco Bay Weekly welcomes your letters. Please keep your thoughts to less than 300 words (longer letters may be edited for space reasons), and include your address and daytime phone number. Letters, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or via e-mail: editor@cbw.maine.com

Puffy with civic pride

Viva "flotsam, jetsam and detritus!" ("Outta My Way," CBW, 2.29.96.)

First, why is Elizabeth Peavey writing a column if she'd "just as soon not hear from you about it"? Anybody who writes a column is bound to hear about it eventually — just ask Pat Buchanan.

Second, on the business of city names, it's Portland that has a problem. How limp to go around with only a half name and that half-cribbed from us — South Portland. Why not call yourselves Seattle-lite or Ersatz Frisco?

Third, I hate to stereotype, but Peavey sounds like one of those post-'70s carpet-baggers who reinvented Portland while they did the same to themselves and could never stop talking about either (one good reason to live on this side of the river). When people begin sentences with "We in Portland . . ." I get a little suspicious.

Now I don't want to go overboard defending South Portland. Watch a city council meeting on public access and you'll think every fourth person over here has a metal plate in his head. Also, I like the comparison of South Portland to Oakland. I've heard the latter termed a lousy place to visit but you wouldn't mind living there.

As far as Willard Beach goes, Peavey misses the mark again. "Scruffy old Willard" doesn't have the flesh trade of OOB or the waves of Scarborough, but parking is a possibility and the regulars there constitute something called a community, the thing Elizabeth doesn't see in the "big, black vortex."

Lastly, reporters should get their facts straight. Nobody in South Portland goes to Pizza Hut — not with Pizza Joint around the corner. And what's with the dig at Cash

Corner; that was also the name of a famous swing band leader in the '40s (before your time, Elizabeth). We're planning on erecting a statue in his honor in front of the new Rite Aid.

I used to like CBW better, but lately it sounds like most of your contributors won't be happy until they get into the graduate schools of their choice or some other microbrewery of self-discovery. "When South Portland starts looking attractive it turns into Scarborough or Cape Elizabeth."

Elizabeth, if you like white 'burbs that much, check out Newton, Needham, Scarsdale and Short Hills. The real action is south.

I hoped I haven't sounded too testy or (God forbid) Rotarian or all puffed up with Civic Pride. I used to live in Portland when I was a kid. I remember the Old Port when it was the oldport, a depressing place where you stood a good chance of getting beaten up by a drunk anytime after 8 p.m. Don't get around much anymore, but I hear it's much the same today.

Kevin Sweeney
South Portland

A severance package

The Republican party almost self-destructed by engaging in the most prolific negative advertising campaign in history. Federal law allows politicians to have access to the media and allows them to say anything they want about their opponent. Americans have had enough, and the candidates seem to have listened.

A parallel to the political process I just described is Police Chief Mike Chitwood's "management philosophy." We've heard Chitwood manipulate the media on any group or person he deemed to be in the wrong. Chitwood's negative advertising campaign has harmed the reputation and viability of Portland's businesses and citizens. I call it a negative advertising campaign because Chitwood has unlimited access to the media, and admittedly uses it to carry out his objectives. He's used the media to slam the Maine Youth Center, the dog man, the local school system, the mental health program, the Federal Witness Protection Program, the Old Port, the Democratic National Committee, the Trash Haulers Union . . .

This guy does nothing to work with the organizations he slams. If he truly saw a problem (most of what he spouts off about has nothing to do with police work), as an effective administrator he would work with each organization to identify the perceived problem, then outline a plan of action to try and correct it. While that would not get him in the media on a daily basis, it may actually effect positive change instead of just heightening concern and fear in the community.

David Jenkins
Portland

Aren't we clever

Al Diamon was recently a guest on WMPG's "Blunt" and gave the program's teenage audience a sanctimonious lecture on how youthful apathy toward politics threatens to place our democracy in the hands of idiots. A caller (me) noted the hypocrisy coming from a man who writes a column equating politics with "other mistakes." His response was that the "mistake" to which he refers is politics as distinct from the actual process of governing. Al apparently would like to restore some meaning to our political discourse.

What a surprise then to read Al's column about the congressional primary campaign between Dale McCormick and Tom Allen (CBW, 3.14.96). There is paragraph after paragraph about Dale's "whiny" voice, the "snide references to her sexual orientation" by heterosexuals and her "enthusiastic" demonstration at the Portland Democratic caucus. Then there is Tom's "monotonous" speaking style, the "questions about whether he's buying his shorts a size too small" and his "boyish gap-toothed grin." The only discussion of anything remotely substantive is the observation that "Tom's positions on issues don't differ much from McCormick's." What positions? What issues?

Neither Dale McCormick nor Tom Allen is among the idiots to whom Al should fear our cynical youth are handing over our democracy. Both candidates — and the rest of us — deserve political reporting that treats the elections as if they actually have some significance beyond their entertainment value. Al dismisses criticism of this type as disgruntlement

over his refusal to write as if he were a "liberal Democrat." But you don't have to be a liberal Democrat to question the assumption that is implicit in every one of Al's columns: that the only person in Maine with the intelligence and character to hold public office is Al Diamon himself.

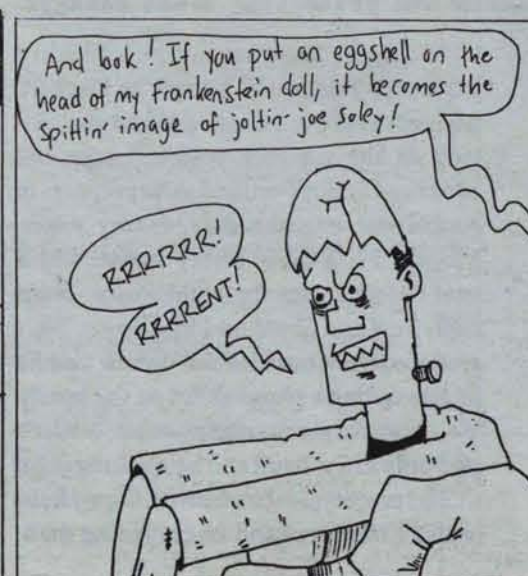
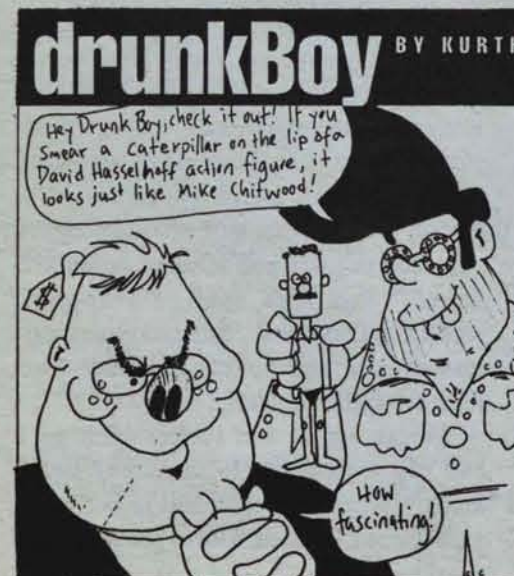
Donald M. Kreis
Portland



What's the story with the big old building in Bramhall Square?

Holt Hall, at Congress and Bramhall streets, has been idle for decades, ever since Maine Medical Center's classrooms and dormitory space were replaced by pigeon lavatories and breeding facilities. Periodically, rumors sweep the city claiming the aging hulk has been purchased by a developer and is about to be converted to elderly housing or not-so-elderly housing or designated a bat sanctuary. Then nothing happens except the decaying plywood boards covering the windows are plastered with yet another layer of posters proclaiming the virtues of a literal interpretation of the Bible, Richard Lugar for President or Shutdown 66. Meanwhile, the building continues its slow conversion into the perfect set for the filming of the complete works of H.P. Lovecraft.

Got a burning question about life in Greater Portland? Let CBW's crack investigative squad sort it out for you. Those whose questions are selected for publication will receive a complimentary SPAM® refrigerator magnet. CBW Q, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or by fax: 775-1615.



Mad, mad, Mad Horse news: Mad Horse Theatre Company's recent benefit at Holiday Inn by the Bay, "It's A Mad, Mad, Mad Horse World," didn't net the financially troubled company what it had hoped for — the amount raised was "substantially below" the target amount of \$3,000, according to managing director Ron Hersom — but the theater says its overall fundraising is on target. Following layoffs, budget cuts and salary reductions in January that chopped \$40,000 out of its budget, the theater set about trying to raise \$92,000 by June 30. So far it's raised \$47,000, according to Hersom.

Mad Horse's 1996-97 schedule, though, seems to indicate that the theater's softening on its art-for-art's-sake approach to programming, and may make raising money a tad bit easier than it's been. This year got off to a rollicking start with "King Lear," but next season leads off with "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." Also

on the schedule is a comedy by Kevin Kling, "Lloyd's Prayer," and a mid-winter feel-good play called "Alabama Rain." (This season's mid-winter cheer-up: "Keeping Tom Nice," a play about a family struggling to cope with its handicapped son.) "It's a very marketable season, from an audience standpoint as well as a business standpoint," said Hersom. "You have to be aware of the public's needs, wants and desires. The only way we can stay in business is if people come."

Nothing's final yet on the theater's plan to move back downtown, though Hersom said Mad Horse is still talking with Uptown & Company as well as the Portland Downtown District to help them find a suitable space.

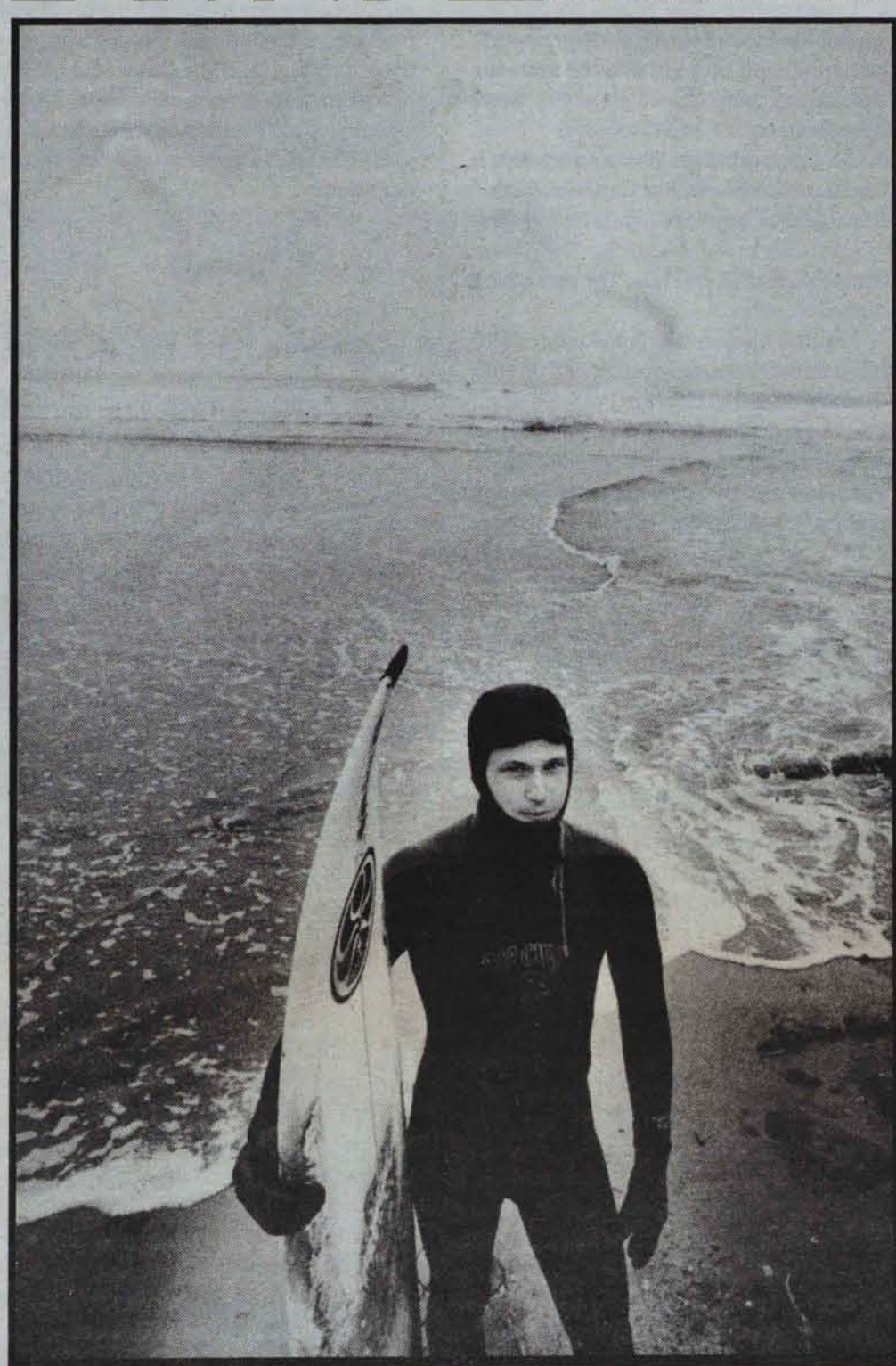
■ Food news you can use: Cheryl Lewis and Noreen Kotts, former chef-owners of Cafe Always, are about to open a new catering business in the State Street Church. The two women, who sold their share of Cafe Always late last fall after 10 years of running the restaurant, decided they'd had enough and that it was time to try something else. They plan to start their latest venture, **Aurora Catering Company**, April 1.

After leaving Cafe Always, Lewis told CBW, she and Kotts looked for work around Portland, "cooking in an environment that was as stimulating and as nice as Cafe Always had been." After a bit of fruitless searching, though, the call of the entrepreneurial wild beckoned the pair again. "Making a living in the food business here is tough," said Lewis. "We decided to open a business of our own instead of banging our heads against the wall for \$8 an hour."

Aurora will concentrate on straight-ahead catering, Lewis said, and plans for a "healthy-style" food-to-go operation are also in the works. Lewis added that sit-down service is "part of the plan, but it's very hazy right now — if the right space came along at the right time, we might take a look at it." For info on Aurora Catering, call 871-9060. **CBW**

edge

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MY STOMACH BELONGS TO DADDY'S ... AFROBEAT PEACE GROOVE



"If there's an ocean, there's a wave": Surfrider Bill Mozak at Higgins Beach. PHOTO/COLIN MALAKIE

Neoprene dreams

Fat wetsuits, 20-degree water and tasty waves. Welcome to Maine surfing.

■ RICK MACPHERSON

While Jamaican bobsledding probably has no serious challenge in the most ridiculous-pairing-of-sport-to-climate department, Maine surfing must rank a close second.

This is one of the kinder thoughts going through my head as I sit on the cold, damp rocks of Higgins Beach in Scarborough just after sunrise one recent morning. I'm here to learn about Maine surfers. I quickly learn that surfing in Maine is no fashion statement — at 6:30 a.m. in the middle of March, it's hard to find much of an audience.

"I'd figure there are maybe a hundred hardcore, year-round surfers in southern Maine, maybe a thousand when you just look at the summer season," says Bill Mozak of South Portland as he prepares to paddle out into the gray, foamy water. Mozak, 27, a New Jersey native and a year-round surfer for eight years, owns Bill's Surf and Skate on India Street. He's anxious to get out into the waves, and he fidgets during a photo shoot on the beach. He's being as gracious as possible, but he's clad only in a wetsuit and he's getting cold.

The prototypical surfer with floppy hair, brilliant blue eyes and an easygoing manner, Mozak casually tosses out lines that sound like they're right out of a "Zen and Surfing" manual: "If there's an ocean, there's a wave" and so on. Listening to Mozak speak, one can't help but feel that he has a perpetual wave breaking in the back of his mind; part of him is in our world, the other part is riding that break. In some respects, his life is surfing; he knows just about every surfer, serious and otherwise, in the area by face, if not by name, and records a daily surf report from his shop (761-WAVE) that documents wave size and condition, weather, tides and storm warnings.

It's those waves — particularly in the winter — that serious local surfers dream about, in spite of water temperatures that can hover in the 20s. "Fall and winter bring storms that stall just offshore and deliver the biggest waves," says Mozak. "Winter storms give you long runs on each wave." At a glance, the only way to tell the difference between a winter surfer and an urchin diver is to see which one reaches for a surf board. Otherwise, they're indistinguishable in their three-quarter-inch neoprene wetsuits, hoods, gloves and boots. Even with full insulation, though, winter surfers can count on perhaps an hour or two in the water before the cold water drives them to shore.

But those frigid waters offer local surfers their own peculiar perks. It seems Maine surfers have earned themselves a national reputation as being the ironmen of the surfing scene. "If a person has surfed in Maine, it garners them a great deal of respect among other surfers," says Mozak. "Every surfer's dream is to surf every surfable spot in the world. Having surfed Maine, particularly in the winter, lends a bit of credit to your reputation."

It's not just the water temperatures that set the Maine surfing scene apart. "Surfing in Maine is such a different experience than in L.A. or other parts of California," says Mozak. "There's some pretty fierce localism in surfing other parts of the country. Fights are always occurring over who claims a break, or who can surf at particular beaches. We have none of that here."

Which is not to say that Maine surfers are worry-free. Along many parts of the southern Maine coast — including Higgins Beach, where surfing is restricted during the summer — beach access rights for surfers continues to be a problem, the result of what surfers consider outdated laws. "[The laws] were initiated in the early '70s during a time when surf boards weighed over 200 pounds and leashes weren't required," says Rich Spies, a year-round surfer from Portland. "But everyone wears leashes now and boards are made from featherweight material."

Mozak agrees that surfers often get a bad rap for negatively impacting beach areas. "When someone leaves bottles or garbage on the beach, a lot of people im-

mediately blame the surfers," he says. "There's a damaging image that we all wear because everyone thinks all we do is surf and party. More than any other people, most surfers I know are concerned about keeping the beach and water clean, not trashed. It's in our own best interest."

To safeguard their interests, Mozak, Spies and others are currently involved in the establishment of a local chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. While its name may

Mozak seems to have a perpetual wave breaking in the back of his mind; part of him is in our world, the other part is riding that break.

imply a surfers-only coalition, the group was in fact established in 1984 in Malibu, Calif., by a coalition of concerned ocean-users — environmentalists, beach-goers and property owners, as well as surfers. With 30 chapters nationwide, Surfrider advocates for offshore water quality and beach access rights through a combination of education, research, lobbying and conservation efforts.

benefit

Hold the iceberg

When Jessica Tomlinson and Dawn-Marie Pierra-Brosch opened the Elvis Room at 25 Forest Ave. in October 1994, the idea was to duplicate the runaway success of the original Elvis



Whither the E Room? Find out March 30.

Bull Moose Music and so on. "The club is still for everyone," says Pierra-Brosch. "We're trying to keep it that way."

"The Titanic Event" will be held March 30 from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. (doors open 6 p.m.) at the Elvis Room, 25 Forest Ave. Tlx: \$5. 775-0474.

Spies chairs the new local chapter here in Portland. A banker (at Atlantic Bank, naturally) and year-round surfer for three years, Spies hopes to generate local interest not only from surfers, but from anyone who values the coast. He points to the recent oil spill in Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay as a cause for continued coastal environmental advocacy. "Maine is known nationally for the quality of its environment," says Spies. "We want to keep it that way."

Not surprisingly, he also wouldn't mind seeing beach access rules for surfers amended to reflect the times. "There's no reason why surfers and swimmers cannot use the beach at the same time," says Spies. "It works in other parts of the country." Spies, Mozak and others hope that a local Surfrider chapter will be a step toward building that bridge.

Back at Higgins Beach, the morning's waves are winding down. After maybe 10 runs on waves that made him look puny, Mozak finally makes his way back to shore. If he's feeling the cold, he doesn't show it. On our ride back to Portland, I ask him what his hopes are for surfing. "I'd love to see more women try it," he says. "And there's a misconception that it's just a sport for young people. I know people who are in their 50s and still surf. It's the greatest form of stress reduction I know."

Surf's up. **CBW**

Room, the one they opened three years ago in Portsmouth, N.H. Gambling that a nonalcoholic all-ages club could survive well outside the bounds of the Old Port, the two women set up shop and waited for the youthful throngs to come rolling in, looking for a place where they could hang and sip a cuppa joe while puffing clove cigarettes.

The throngs haven't materialized, though, and now Pierra-Brosch says she needs to raise a small pile of money to keep her doors open. That's why the Elvis Room will put on what it's calling "The Titanic Event," featuring a bunch of local bands — Polly Purebred, Plumber, No Excuse, Silverstone and more — and a raffle with stuff from Videopost, Terra Firma, Suitsmi, Federal Spice, Daddy's,

■ SCOTT SUTHERLAND

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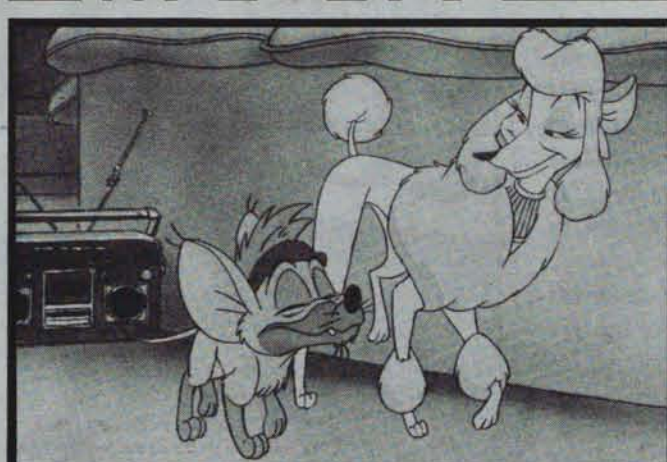
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movies



Tito and Georgette bust a move in OLIVER & COMPANY.

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN 2 Heaven's a nice place, but it does get a little boring. Charlie Sheen lends his voice to the brave pup who leaves the good life of the house of many mansions behind to retrieve the angel Gabriel's stolen horn from the land of the living.

ANGELA Winner of the filmmakers trophy at the 1995 Sundance Film Festival, "Angela" is the gritty story of a family in turmoil. Ten-year-old Angela is dealing simultaneously with her mother's manic depression, her own bizarre obsessions with religion and the devil, and her fear that she may be the cause of her mother's malaise. What's more, she has ushered her younger sister into sharing her odd fascinations. Written by Rebecca Miller, daughter of Arthur.

ANGELS AND INSECTS The very beautiful and filthy rich Patsy Kensit chases after a poor biologist (Mark Ryland) whose first love was bugs. He is taken by her beauty but confused as to why an heiress like herself would want a nerdy pauper like him. Yes, somebody is keeping secrets.

BABE THE PIG It's not enough for an enterprising porker to eat slop and roll in the mud. This is the tale of a young pig in search of gainful employment; he tries everything, even rounding up the sheep, during his adventures on the farm.

THE BIRDGAGE Armand (Robin Williams) and Albert (Nathan Lane) are committed companions and loving parents to their son Val. When he delivers the news of his engagement they're delighted for him. The trouble is, Armand and Albert are gay and Val's future in-laws are ultra-conservatives (played by Gene Hackman and Dianne Wiest). A serious topic, not a serious movie.

BRAVEHEART Mel Gibson directs, produces and stars as William Wallace, the 13th century Scottish hero who returns to his troubled homeland and his true love to fight for Scottish independence. He does battle with the loathsome English king, Edward I (otherwise known as Edward the Longshanks, for unexplained reasons) and gallops across the rolling green fields in a kilt.

BROKEN ARROW Christian Slater plays a pilot who must save the world from the threat of nuclear mayhem. The offense: John Travolta as Slater's former partner, who goes a little cuckoo, swipes nuclear warhead and blackmails the government. Samantha Mathis (Slater's "Pump Up the Volume" pal) is there to assure viewers of their hero's heterosexuality.

DEAD MAN WALKING Tim Robbins' latest, about a nun who fights for the life—and soul—of a man sentenced to death for the killings of two teenagers. Stars Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon. Early buzz: Oscars every which way you turn.

DIABOLIQUE One scorned woman is plenty to be wary of, but two can be a real killer. After dealing with years of emotional abuse from misogynistic egomaniac Guy Baran (Chazz Palminteri), Isabelle Adjani (his timid wife) and Sharon Stone (his mistress) are fed up. Bonding over their sour grapes, the women plot to kill their beloved. His disappearance, however, does not go unnoticed. Jeremiah Chechick directs this remake of the 1955 French classic.

DOWN PERISCOPE Kelsey Grammer moves from his comfy roost as TV's favorite neurotic psychiatrist to the big screen as an action-starved naval officer. Lots of adventures and laughs come his way. Penned by "Major League's" David Ward.

ED Matt LeBlanc ("Friends") stars in this "Bad News Bears"-esque story of a failing baseball team. Enter Ed, a dynamic and talented chimp who may be the answer to their prayers. This kiddie treat comes to us from Bill Couture, whose last project was the Oscar-winning documentary "Common Threads: Stories of the Quilt." Hmm.

EXECUTIVE DECISION Watch out Arnold and Sly, Kurt Russell is tearin' it up and knocking 'em dead in Joel Silver's latest testosterone-fest. Russell plays an intelligence operative aboard a commercial jetliner under terrorist attack. Intelligence aside, brute strength is the only thing to get him out of this one. And boy does he deliver. Also starring Halle Berry and Steven Seagal.

A FAMILY THING The story of a grown white man (Robert Duval) who finds out that his birth mother was black. He goes north to meet his black half brother (James Earl Jones) and find out who his mother really was. This exploration of race identity opts for subtlety rather than aggressiveness.

FARGO This is the Coen brothers' new imagination-infused true story of a midwestern car salesman (William H. Macy) who hires two inept thugs to kidnap his wife. His plot to use the ransom to get out of debt leaves a trail of dead bodies. Frances McDormand plays the good-natured cop who has more brain power than she seems to. Also starring Steve Buscemi.

FRENCH TWIST If you haven't experienced the acting talents of Victoria Abril, get ready, because you're in for a treat. Josiane Balasko's French face puts her in the middle of a love triangle. Seeking revenge on her philandering husband, Abril takes up with a saucy lesbian, played by Balasko. The trouble is, she can't decide who she really wants. What results is a sexy "Three Stooges."

GIRL 6 Spike Lee's films are usually so heavy on identity politics and racial fiction that it's hard to imagine a conflict-free comedy coming from his camera. Nonetheless, in his new comedy, Theresa Randle plays an aspiring actress who swallows her pride in pursuit of cash and becomes a purveyor of phone sex. When the time comes to leave her "sleazy" career for the highbrow world of "real" acting, though, the decision isn't so easy. Full of familiar faces—a veritable who's who of Hollywood hipness.

GRUMPER OLD MEN Same guys (Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon), same plot (the race to get the girl—Sophia Loren), same idea (two blue-haired curmudgeons). If you liked it the first time around, what are you waiting for? Go see the second installment.

HOMEWARD BOUND II: LOST IN SAN FRANCISCO Here's the premise: For reasons that elude us, the Sencer family decides to bring their two dogs (Chance and Shadow) and fluffy lap cat (Sassy) with them on a camping trip to the Canadian Rockies. Chance escapes from his kennel in the airport, leading Shadow and Sassy on a wild goose chase to rescue him. What follows is lots of fun and mayhem on the mean streets of San Francisco. And, of course, a few lessons about life, friendship, loyalty and love.

LEAVING LAS VEGAS Ben Sanderson (Nicolas Cage) is a burnt-out alcoholic who hits Las Vegas to drink himself into the grave. Elizabeth Shue plays Sera, the kind-hearted prostitute who crosses his path. They do the co-dependent thing for a while, but nothing can change destiny. Cage just took home a Golden Globe for his role, while Shue culled a nomination. Based on John O'Brien's semi-autobiographical novel.

MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS Directed by Stephen Herek ("The Three Musketeers"), this film pays homage to those overworked underpaid people who guide us through the happiest years of our lives. Richard Dreyfuss stars as the teacher who spends his life searching for the fountain of youth only to realize it has been in his classroom all the while.

MUPPET TREASURE ISLAND Kermit and his pals, including their new friend young Jim Hawkins and the muttonous Long John Silver (Tim Curry), set off on the high seas to unearth a long lost treasure. Unfortunately Silver has his own plans for the treasure. The plot thickens when Miss Piggy appears as Benjamin Gunn, ruling queen of the warthogs. Does Kermit have what it takes to save the map, Jim, his crew and himself?

OLIVER & COMPANY Initially released in 1988, this animated Disney adventure returns to theaters for a new crop of youngsters to enjoy. Follow Oliver the homeless kitten as he befriends a troupe of mild mannered mutts and yucks it up in the big city.

IL POSTINO (THE POSTMAN) Famous Chilean poet Pablo Neruda was exiled in 1952, and went to live on an idyllic island off the coast of Italy, where he received so much mail that the local postmaster hired a young man off his father's fishing boat to deliver the extra load. The young postman and the poet strike up an unlikely friendship, and the postman develops an appreciation for the art of language. He uses his newfound talent to charm the local ladies, especially the unapproachable Beatrice. (In Italian.)

PRIMAL FEAR Richard "The Dali Lama" is my best-pal! Gere plays a dirty-dealing lawyer, defending a murder suspect with multiple personalities. "Congo's" Laura Linney is the hard-ass, by-the-book prosecutor who plays the foil. Gregory Hoblit ("L.A. Law") directs.

RACE THE SUN Alright, here's the deal: An inspirational teacher helps a group of jaded kids design and build a solar car which earns them a spot in the world solar car race and promises of fame and glory. Lots of feel-good moments, wherein the kids to succeed prevails over the reality of hard work. Starring Halle Berry and James Belushi.

RUMBLE IN THE BRONX Jackie Chan is back for the attack as a ripped Hong Kong cop who comes to the States for a wedding. He's minding his own business (of course), when he suddenly discovers a damsel in distress. Chan the vigilante prevails against the slimy biker dudes who won't buzz off. More pyrotechnics than you'll find at T-Bird's.

SGT. BILKO It's a veritable feast of "Saturday Night Live" funny guys in this sarcastic take on the service picture. Steve Martin plays the title role to the hilt, jing and cheating his way into the barracks of his fellow soldiers. Based on the T.V. character made famous by Phil Silver in the '50s. Phil Hartman and Dan Aykroyd add their nutty humor to the mix.

12 MONKEYS Bruce Willis goes back in time to find the source of a nasty virus that's killing everybody, and runs into an animal-rights activist played by Brad Pitt. Written by Janet and David Webb Peoples, who wrote "Blade Runner," and filmed with lots of cool, futuristic sci-fi special effects.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL Tally Atwater (Michelle Pfeiffer) is a small-town girl with bigtime ambition. Atwater's rise to fame in the high-strung, ultra-competitive world of network television news brings her close to handsome older newsmen Warren Justice (Robert Redford), and the two swap trade secrets, among other things. Does the name Jessica Sawtich ring a bell?

movie times

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRIDAY-THURSDAY, MARCH 28-APRIL 4, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Owing to scheduling changes after CBW goes to press, moviegoers are advised to confirm times with theaters.

Nickelodeon, Temple and Middle streets, Portland, 772-9751.

DOWN PERISCOPE (PG-13)
12:30, 2:25, (SAT-SUN ONLY), 4:30, 8:40, 9:10

RUMBLE IN THE BRONX (R)
1, (SAT-SUN ONLY), 3:40, 7:10, 9:20

ED (PG)
12:10, 2:15, (SAT-SUN ONLY)

GRUMPER OLD MEN (PG-13)
12:50 (SAT-SUN ONLY), 3:50, 6:30, 9

12 MONKEYS (R)
4:10, 6:50, 9:30

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (R)
12:40 (SAT-SUN ONLY), 3:30, 7, 9:40

BRAVEHEART (R)
4:20, 7:45

BABE (G)
12:15, 2:20 (SAT-SUN ONLY)

General Cinemas, Maine Mall, Maine Mall Road, S. Portland, 774-1022.

OLIVER & COMPANY (G)
1:15, 3:10, 5:05, 7, 9

RACE THE SUN (PG)
1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

GIRL 6 (R)
7:40, 9:55

FARGO (R)
12:50, 3, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40

MUPPET TREASURE ISLAND (G)
12:40, 2:55, 5:10

MR HOLLAND'S OPUS (PG)
1, 4, 6:50, 9:45

BROKEN ARROW (R)
1:30, 4, 7:20, 9:45

EXECUTIVE DECISION (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45

PRIMAL FEAR (R)
7 (SAT ONLY)

Hoyts Clark's Pond, 333 Clark's Rd., S. Portland, 879-1511.

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN 2 (G)
1:10, 3:10, 7

SGT. BILKO (PG)
12:20, 2:40, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30

ANGELS AND INSECTS (R)
12:50, 7:45, 10

HOMEWARD BOUND II (G)
1:40, 3:40, 6

THE BIRDGAGE (R)
12:40, 3:30, 4:20, 6:50, 8:45, 9:40

DEAD MAN WALKING (R)
3:50, 6:40, 9:10

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL (PG-13)
12:30, 3:20, 6:30, 9:10

DIABOLIQUE (R)
12:10, 2:35, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55

A FAMILY THING (PG-13)
12, 2:30, 5, 7:20, 9:50

The Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland, 772-9600.

FRENCH TWIST (R)
MARCH 28-APRIL 2 • wed-tues 5, 7:15, 9:30 • sat-sun mat 2:30

CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL
MARCH 30-31 • SAT 10:30, 12:30 • SUN 12:30

April 3-9 • WED-FRI 5, 7, 9 • SAT-SUN 3, 5, 7 • MON-TUES 5, 9

FLAGSHIP CINEMAS, 206 U.S. ROUTE 1, FALMOUTH, 781-5616.

THE BIRDGAGE (R)
1:20, 3:40, 7:20, 9:40

SGT BILKO (PG)
12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 7:30, 9:30

A FAMILY THING (PG-13)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:25, 9:45

OLIVER & COMPANY (G)
12:40, 2:35, 4:25, 6:15, 8

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN 2 (G)
1:05, 4:05, 6:45, 9:15

FRI-TUES 12:15, 2:10, 4:05 • WED-THURS 6:30

DIABOLIQUE (R)
FRI-TUES 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10 (EXCEPT SAT), 9:35 • WED-THURS 7:10, 9:35

HOMEWARD BOUND II (G)
1:10, 3:10, 5:10

EXECUTIVE DECISION (R)
1:05, 4:05, 6:45, 9:15

IL POSTINO (PG)
7:05, 9:25

RACE THE SUN (PG)
9

FARGO (R)
1, 3:10, 5:25, 7:35, 9:40

PRIMAL FEAR (R)
SAT 7:10 • WED-THURS 12:45, 3:45, 7, 9:35

clubs

Prime cut

Imagine a band whose songwriter refers to Neil Young, Joni Mitchell and Bruce Springsteen as the holy trinity, yet plays music that "blurs the lines between hip-hop, reggae and grunge." Don't strain yourself trying—the NYC quintet **PLASTIQUE** has taken care of it. Plastique's music is heavy on rhythm and guitar, but always with a respect for subtlety that keeps them from just sounding noisy. At Geno's, 13 Brown St., Portland, March 29 at 8 pm. Tix: \$3.
7 7 2 - 7 8 9 1



thursday 28

The Big Easy The Radio Kings (blues), 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Clyde's Pub Karaoke, 173 Ocean St., So. Portland, 799-4473.

Free Street Taverna John Parkinson and Charlie Schmitt, 128 Free St., Portland, 774-1114.

Geno's Wide Open Mic Night, 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7891.

Granny Killam's Gov't Mule, 55 Market St., Portland, 781-2787.

The Inferno Chem-free dance (guest DJ, night), 395 Main St., S. Portland, 874-4901.

Leo's Open Mic with Chronic Funk, 1 Exchange St., Portland, 828-1111.

The Moon College Night (DJ Steve Briggs spins top 40 dance), 427 Fore St., Portland, 772-1983.

Morganfield's Odetta (folk legend), 121 Center St., Portland, 774-5853.

Old Port Tavern Bicycle Thieves (rock), 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

Stone Coast Brewing Company Kristen Mueller Trio (rock), 14 York St., Portland, 773-2337.

T-Bird's Dr. Dirty John Valby (comedy), 126 N. Boyd St., Portland, 773-8040.

Tipperary Pub Greg Powers (karaoke), Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd., So. Portland, 775-6161.

The Underground Big Bob's Dance Night, 3 Spring St., Portland, 773-3315.

Wii's Restaurant Ken Cox (a gay and his guitar), 78 Island Ave., Peaks Island, 766-3322.

Verrillo's Good Vibrations (rock), 155 Riverside St., Portland, 775-6536.

Zoot's Polygot, Hatebreed, Crosscurrent and The Voohees (all ages, 5:30pm) Cobalt 60 with Neon Jesus (21+), 31 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-8187.

Zoot's O.J. Ekemede & The Nigerian All-Stars (Afropop), 31 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-8187.

Zoot's Decades of Dance (best of the '70s), 31 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-8187.

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Geno's Sunset Gun, Plastique and Falafel Boy (pop/rock), 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7891.

Granny Killam's Slideways with Sabertooth Nudist, 55 Market St., Portland, 761-2787.

Hedgehog Pub The Mollies (folk), 35 India St., Portland, 871-9124.

The Moon Ladies' Night (DJ Steve Briggs spins top 40 dance), 427 Fore St., Portland, 772-1983.

Morganfield's King Memphis (rockabilly dance party), 121 Center St., Portland, 774-5853.

Old Port Tavern Bicycle Thieves (rock), 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

Raoul's The Jazz Mandolin Project (jazz fusion— all ages), 865 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-6886.

The Moon Saturday Night Jams (DJ Dale Dorsett spins R&B and dance), 427 Fore St., Portland, 772-1983.

Granny Killam's Car (cd release party), 55 Market St., Portland, 761-2787.

The Moon Saturday Night Jams (DJ Dale Dorsett spins R&B and dance), 427 Fore St., Portland, 772-1983.

Morganfield's Gary Primich (harp hero), 121 Center St., Portland, 774-5853.

Old Port Tavern Bicycle Thieves (rock), 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

Raoul's Mary Rivers Benefit (rock 'n' roll), 865 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-6886.

Steamers Bar & Grill Ladies Night (rock 'n' roll), Jordan's Seafood Restaurant, 700 Main St., So. Portland, 780-8434.

Stone Coast Brewing Company The Suspenders, 14 York St., Portland, 773-2337.

T-Bird's Jenny Woodman (rock), 126 N. Boyd St., Portland, 773-8040.

Tipperary Pub Jim Gallant, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd., So. Portland, 775-6161.

The Underground DJ Tim Stanley (dance, dance, dance), 3 Spring St., Portland, 773-3315.

Tipperary Pub Straight Lace, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd., So. Portland, 775-6161.

Top of the East Marlene Daley (top 40), Radisson Hotel, 157 High St., Portland, 775-5411.

The Underground DJ Tim Stanley (dance, dance, dance), 3 Spring St., Portland, 773-3315.

Listings

Casco Bay Weekly listings are a fun and free service to our readers. To have a listing considered for publication, send complete information (including dates, times, costs, complete address, a contact telephone number) by noon on Thursday prior to publication.

stage

"And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little" Portland Players presents Paul Zindel's black comedy telling the story of three sisters who learn to cope and care for each other despite their differences. At 420 Cottage Rd., S. Portland, March 29-April 6, Fri & Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2:30 pm. Tix: \$13 (\$10 opening night). 799-7337.

"Annie Get Your Gun" St. Joseph's Parish School presents Irving Berlin's classic musical. At Cathedral McAuley High School Auditorium, 631 Stevens Ave., Portland, March 28 at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$5 (\$3 kids/seniors). 797-7073.

"Beast on the Moon" Portland Stage Company presents Richard Kallinoski's love story, about two Armenian refugees living in Milwaukee in the 1920s, struggle with memory and self-redefinition. At Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave. March 28-31, Tues-Thurs 7:30 pm, Fri 8 pm, Sat 5 & 9 pm, Sun 2 pm. Tix: \$29 (discounts available for seniors and students/\$15 members). 774-0465.

"Murder in Hell's Kitchen ... A Manhattan Murder Mystery" Mystery Cafe presents a murder-mystery dinner theater production at the Village Cafe Restaurant, 112 Newbury St., Portland, March 28 at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$29.95. Reservations required. 775-1144.

"Old Times" Vintage Repertory Company presents Harold Pinter's evocation of sex and memory. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland, March 28-April 14, Thurs-Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 5 pm. Tix: \$12 (2-for-1 on Thurs). 775-5103.

"Sweet River" Local playwright Christa Kinn explores the good and bad of growing up in this original musical fantasy presented by the USM theater group Student Performing Artists. At the Lab Theater in Russell Hall, USM Campus, Gorham, April 4-6, Thurs-Fri 7 pm, Sat at 2 pm. Tix: \$6 (\$5 students/seniors — \$3 kids). 780-5483.

"Under Milk Wood" The Theater Project presents a story of everyday people in a pre-World War II coast town in Wales. March 29-April 13, Fri at 8 pm and Sat at 3 & 8 pm. At the Theater Project, 14 School St., Brunswick. Tix: \$10 (2-for-1 Sat matinee). March 29 is "pay what you can" night. 729-8584.

"Who Killed Uncle Willy?" Mystery Cafe presents a murder-mystery dinner theater production at the Radisson Eastland Hotel, 157 High St., Portland, March 30 at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$29.95. Reservations required. 775-1144.

"The Women of My Father's House" Mad Horse Theatre Company presents the story of a woman's confrontation with her past after the death of her father. March 28-April 21, Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 7 pm. At the Mad Horse Theatre, 955 Forest Ave., Portland. Tix: \$18 (\$16 students/seniors — opening night \$10). March 31 is "pay what you can" night. 797-3338.

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" Deering High School Drama Club presents a musical for the entire family. March 29-31, Fri 7 pm, Sat 2 & 7 pm, Sun 2 pm. At Deering High School Auditorium, 370 Stevens Ave., Portland. Tix: \$6 (\$4 students). 874-8260.

auditions/etc

Acorn Productions will hold a raffle for a small, speaking part in the upcoming "Safe Sex." The final drawing happens April 1. Tix: \$10. Available at 92 Oak St., Portland. 775-5103.

Acting For Ordinary People at Oak Street Productions, 92 Oak St., Portland announces its new program of classes and workshops in acting, music, dance and technical theater. 775-5103.

Cathedral Chamber Singers A community choir based at St. Luke's Cathedral seeks new members. Auditions by appointment. 772-5434.

The Choral Art Society will hold auditions for its new season April 9-11 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 113 Coyle St., Portland. Call ahead to schedule an appointment and receive the audition music. 828-0043.

Dark Water Theatre Company 47 Middle St., Portland, will hold auditions for all roles in its 1996 summer season, "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me," "Death and the Maiden" and "The 15 Minute Hamlet." April 6 from 9 am-5 pm. Callbacks will be held April 7. Prepare two short contrasting monologues and be prepared to read from sides. Call to schedule an appointment. 761-5974.

Joseph Thomas Memorial Scholarship The Portland Players is accepting applications from graduating seniors for the 1996 scholarship. Candidates must write an essay describing their experiences with theater and plans to include theater in their future. For an application, stop by 420 Cottage Rd., S. Portland, or call 799-7337.

The Maine Summer Dramatic Institute offers an intensive 5-week program in theater with a focus on Shakespeare. For qualified teens. 772-4768.

Serious Play Introductory and intermediate level acting classes taught by actor/director Louis Frederick. Limited enrollment. 879-7901.

Young Men's Choir holds ongoing auditions by appointment only. 854-0182.

concerts

thursday 28

Evelyn Glennie Portland Concert Association presents the world class solo percussionist in a concert of everything from Chopin to Japanese, Korean and Brazilian music. At Portland High School Theater, 284 Cumberland Ave., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$20-\$25. 772-8630.

friday 29

Eldelind Choir at Sacred Heart The new classic repertory female choir conducted by Michael A. Eldelind presents "Stabat Mater" by Pergolesi. At Sacred Heart Church, 80 Sherman St., Portland at 8 pm. Cost: \$10 (\$5 students/seniors). Also March 30 at 8 pm, and March 31 at 3 pm. 772-6182.

saturday 30

Portland Symphony Chamber Orchestra Performs a program with the Bowdoin Chamber Choir celebrating the Easter season with performances of Haydn and Handel. At the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland at 6:30 pm. Tix: \$25-\$35 (discounts available). Also March 31. 773-8191.

The Mid-Coast Chamber Orchestra The orchestra performs their Spring Pops Concerts featuring Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf." March 30 at the Thornton Heights United Methodist Church, 100 Westbrook St., S. Portland, at 2 pm. Tix: \$6 (\$3 students). March 31 at the United Methodist Church, 320 Church Rd., Brunswick, at 3 pm. Tix: \$8 (\$4 students — \$6/\$3 advance). Also March 31. 725-5657.

sunday 31

Gorham First Parish Congregational Church Choir performs a concert of Vivaldi's Gloria in D among others. In the church sanctuary, 1 School St., Gorham, 4 pm. Donations accepted to help fund the choir's upcoming trip to Vienna, Austria. 839-6726.

upcoming

Collegium Musicum April 5, USM's early music chamber group presents a program of vocal and instrumental music of the Renaissance and early Baroque periods. At Corbett Concert Hall, USM Campus, Gorham. Tix: \$4 (\$2 seniors/students). 780-5555.

Shawn Colvin April 12. Singer-songwriter Shawn Colvin plays a solo acoustic performance at Morrell Gym, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. Tix: \$19.50. 508-346-4377.

Primos April 15. The gods of quirky funk play with the Cows at the Central Maine Civic Center, Lewiston, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$20 (+\$1.50 for parking). 783-2009.

Andi DiFranco April 19. The darling singer/songwriter and creator of her own Righteous Babe record label plays at USM's Sullivan Gym, Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$14 (\$8 students). 780-4090.

Bob Dylan April 20 & 21. The legendary folk singer plays two benefit concerts to help the State get back on its feet. At the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$29-\$36. 879-1112.

dance

Agape 657 Congress St., Portland. Creative movement on Mondays from 5:15-7:15 pm. Cost: \$5. "Eclectic Barefoot Boogie" on Fridays at 9 pm. Cost: \$5. Street funk dance on Tuesdays at 6 pm. Cost: \$7. 780-1500.

Ballroom Dance Social The Gorham Dance Club hosts a ballroom party and social, Saturdays from 8-11 pm at the Center of Movement, 19 State St., Gorham. Potluck supper at 7 pm. Cost: \$5. 839-3267.

Benefit Dance for the Boy Singers of Maine featuring the Tony Boffa Band March 29 from 8 pm-midnight at Harmony Hall, Route 115, North Yarmouth. Tix: \$8. 657-5295.

Casco Bay Movers offer a spring session of classes in jazz, tap, street funk, ballet, stretch and dance magic. At 151 St. John St., Portland. 871-1013.

Centre of Movement School of Performing Arts 19 State St., Gorham. Offers dance classes and special events on a regular basis. 839-3267.

Contradance with Crooked Stovepipe Band every third Fri at 8:30 pm at the Presumpscot Grange, 1844 Forest Ave., Portland (across from Tortilla Flat). All dances taught. Singles always welcome. Cost: \$5. 774-3392.

Contradance with The Sea Slugs the first Sat of each month at 7:30 pm at Saco River Grange Hall, Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills. Cost: \$4 (\$2 kids/ \$10 family max). Next dance: April 6. 929-6472.

Contradance with Whirled Peas and John McIntyre the first Fri of every month at 8:30 pm at State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland. Cost: \$5. (All dances taught). 774-1873.

Maine Ballroom Dance Studio 614A Congress St., Portland, offers classes in swing, foxtrot, waltz and Latin dance, as well as a dance party every Saturday night, from 8 pm-midnight. Cost: \$6. 773-0002.

Mainiac Swing hosts a jitterbug swing dance party the first Fri of every month from 9 pm-midnight, at the Presumpscot Grange Hall, on outer Forest Ave across from Tortilla Flats, Portland. Next party: April 6 with live Rockabilly from King Memphis. \$6. 828-1795.

Maplewood Dance Center 383 Warren Ave., Portland, is open every night for dancing. Country dancing Thurs-Mon. Swing dancing the third Tuesday of every month and Ballroom dancing Wed. 878-0584.

Pine Tree and Round Squares Square Dance Club presents a "Show Your Colors Ball" March 30 at 7 pm at Wentworth Middle School, Scarborough. 883-6144.

The Singles Network holds dances the first and third Sat of the month at varying locations. Next dance: April 6 at the Ramada Inn, 1230 Congress St., Portland, from 8:15 pm-midnight. 799-7522.

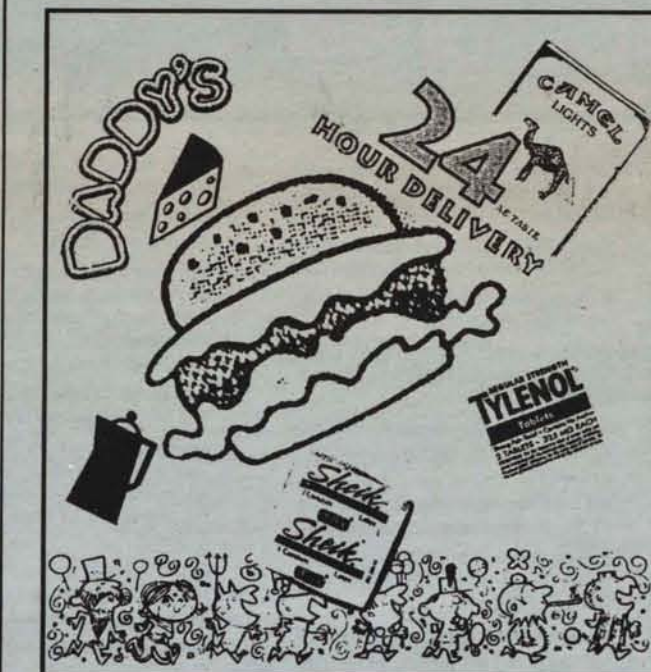
Swendenborgian Family Dance in a chem-free, smoke-free atmosphere. All eras of music and ages of dancers are welcome. Every fourth Saturday of the month at the Swendenborgian Church, 302 Stevens Ave., Portland, from 8:30-11:30 pm. Refreshments on sale. Next dance: March 30. Cost: \$5 (\$3 kids). 772-4460.

Continued on page 22

eats

Dear old dad

Daddy's Gourmet Deli and Delivery, Portland's newest 24-hour food operation, occupies the space at 548 Congress St. that was formerly inhabited by late-night venues like Bobop's and Abraham's. The gang at Daddy's doesn't seem to be spending a lot of time worrying about what



sank their predecessors, though, since they're busy whipping up a plethora of tasty vittles made on the premises — red-pepper, leek and tomato quiche, meals with names like "Mother Natale's Lasagna," generously packed sandwiches on your choice of bread with sun-dried tomato pesto pasta salad. Sure, the help's counter etiquette is a little tentative (they've only been open a couple weeks), and you never know whether the chocolate chip cookies

will be chewy or crunchy, but these flaws are nothing a sincere smile and a darn good tuna salad sandwich can't make up for.

What's more, Daddy's seems to be filling a niche in Portland's dining arena. Before Daddy's, finding decent food at 3 a.m. was nearly impossible. There was Denny's or Taco Bell at Christie's, but if you wanted "real" food you could just forget it. "We have people come in all the time who are psyched and can't believe we're open," says T.J., a Daddy's manager. "Third shift [11 p.m.-7 a.m.] is our busiest time of day."

In addition to serving up chow, Daddy's is sensitive to the everyday needs of the night owl. Behind the counter, shelves display Zig-Zag rolling papers in two sizes, a variety of pain killers and cold remedies, feminine "hygiene" products, candy bars, condoms and cigarettes — essentials for those long Portland nights.

If you aren't sold on Daddy's yet, give them a call next time you're craving chocolate-covered strawberries at midnight. They'll bring them to your door.

■ ZOË MILLER

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calendar

Submissions for the calendar must be received in writing on the Thursday prior to the publication. Send your calendar listings to Zoe Miller, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.



friday 29 The four-piece, heavy-edged, grunge-core band **Cobalt 60** is no stranger to Portland. During the band's many visits, the guys have kept company with Twisted Roots, Tripe and Rotors II Rust. Unfortunately, artistic differences and independent projects have them on the verge of a breakup. Don't miss your chance to say goodbye at Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., at 9 p.m. Tix: \$5. 773-8187.



thursday 28 If you're ready to reminisce, opening night has arrived. And with two choices, no less: Vintage Repertory Company's "Old Times," Harold Pinter's tale of three forty-something friends reminiscing over past and present sexual liaisons, or Mad Horse Theatre's "The Women of My Father's House," the story of a woman's confrontation with her past after the death of her father. Both shows kick off at 8 p.m. "Old Times" shows through April 14 at Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St. Tix: \$12 (Thurs. is 2-for-1 night). Call for times. 775-5103. "The Women of My Father's House" shows through April 21 at Mad Horse Theatre, 955 Forest Ave. Tix: \$18 (\$16 students/seniors — opening night \$10). Call for times. 797-3338.

saturday 30 The Maine landscape has inspired generations of artists, including **Jonathan Hotz**. At the age of 30, the Rockport resident is already an accomplished painter of the Maine coast. Join him for a reception of his work at the Art Gallery at Six Deering Street from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Shows through April 20. Hours: Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 772-9605.

sunday 31 William Wegman's ever-malleable Weimaraners are at it again. This time, they're hot on the trail of some environmental baddies in "The Hardy Boys" (a spoof on you-know-who), just one of the films featured in Breakwater School's **Children's Film Festival**. The festival will also include the Charlie Chaplin classic, "The Tramp," and several short cartoons. At The Movies, 10 Exchange St., at 12:30 p.m. Also shows March 30 at 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Tix: \$6 (\$4 kids). 772-9600.

monday 1 Whether or not you're part of the granola-crunching, crystal-bearing denomination, you can't ignore the health benefits of yoga. **Portland Yoga Studio** presents a new season of classes that promises to serve everyone from the beginner to the seasoned practitioner of yoga — including prenatal yoga, yoga for kids, body reading, structural assessment and yoga for menopause. PYS has evening and morning classes at 616 Congress St. Prices vary. 797-5684.

tuesday 2 History doesn't write itself you know. Nobody needs to tell that to the Falmouth Historical Society, a citizen group interested in "Reactivating Falmouth History." You can join in the fun at Falmouth Memorial Library, 5 Lunt Rd., Falmouth, from 7-9 p.m. 781-2351.

wednesday 3 Winner of the filmmakers trophy at the Sundance Film Festival, "Angela" is the gritty story of a family in turmoil. Ten-year-old Angela is dealing simultaneously with her mother's manic depression, her own bizarre obsessions with religion and the Devil, and her fear that she may be the cause of her mother's malaise. At The Movies, 10 Exchange St., at 5, 7 & 9 p.m. Shows through April 9. Tix: \$4 (\$2.50 on Wed.). 772-9600.

thursday 4 We all know that growing up is hard to do. Offering a few insights on the process is local playwright Christenia Alden Kinne with her original musical fantasy "Sweet River," presented by the USM theater group Student Performing Artists. At the Lab Theater in Russell Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 7 p.m. Shows April 5 at 7 p.m. and April 6 at 2 p.m. Tix: \$6 (\$5 students/seniors — \$3 kids). 780-5483.

friday 5 For years he has brought smiles to the faces of Portlanders with his bright, colorful, quirky, animated artwork. Now **David Cedrone** beckons us to "leave behind the everyday and enter into the extraordinary" at the grand opening of his new gallery, The Whimsical World of David Cedrone, 150 High St., from 5-8 p.m. 761-2802.

saturday 6 Matt "Guitar" Murphy didn't just fall off the turnip truck. He's an original "blues brother" hailing from Memphis, where he spent time working his way into the scene with his brother Floyd. Though his career has made him wary of the big music biz, his love for the blues keeps drawing him back to the stage. At Morganfield's, 121 Center St., at 9 p.m. Tix: \$5. 774-5853.



Wander through Dave's world, April 5

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

events

Harlem Globetrotters March 28. Innovators of basketball fun, the Globetrotters come to Portland on their 1996 "Bring You the World" tour. At the Civic Center, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$12-\$14. 775-3458.

The Magic of Lyn March 29. A show featuring the magic of Lyn Dillies. At Gorham High School, 41 Morrill Ave. Gorham. Tix: \$9 (\$7.50 kids). 839 7755.

Children's Film Festival March 30 & 31. Breakwater School and The Movies present a special presentation of films for kids featuring "The Hardy Boys," "The Tramp" and other short films. At The Movies, 10 Exchange St. Portland. \$6 (\$4 kids). Proceeds benefit programming at Breakwater School. 772-8689.

Indian Celebration of Happiness March 30. Agape presents a day of Indian dance and vegetarian food. At 657 Congress St. Portland, at 3-9 pm. Cost: \$30-\$40. Preregistration required. 780-1500.

Maine Libertarian Party Convention March 30. Featuring Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne, author of "You Can Profit from a Monetary Crisis." At the Ramada Inn Conference Center, 1230 Congress St. Portland from 1:30-8 pm. \$5 donation. 780-1776.

Many Rivers Benefit March 30. The Friends of Many Rivers, a program that brings together students, parents and teachers in a multi-graded learning center at Hall School in Portland, presents a silent auction and dance to benefit the program. Hey Mister and Dr. O will provide musical entertainment beginning at 8:30 pm. Doors open at 6 pm. At Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave. Portland. Tix: \$5. 874-4060.

March Madness Family Fun Auction March 30. The Falmouth PTA sponsors a live auction featuring auctioneer Joy Piscopo. At Nathan Clifford School, 180 Falmouth St. Portland. Preview begins at 6 pm, auction at 7 pm. Proceeds benefit playground improvements. 773-8417.

Old House Trade Show March 30. Greater Portland Landmarks presents a day with over 50 fine craftsmen and suppliers who will show you how to make an old house shine again. At 58 Fore St. Portland, from 10 am-5 pm. Tix: \$5. 774-5561.

"Small Wonders: Dolls, Bears and Miniatures" March 30. The Center For Maine History and the Maine Society of Doll & Bear Artists presents their fifth annual show and sale featuring exhibits, demonstrations and lectures. At Sullivan Gym, USM Campus, Portland, from 10 am-4 pm. Tix: \$3 (\$1 kids). 879-0427.

art

openings

Art Gallery at Six Deering Street 6 Deering St. Portland. Opening reception for new oil paintings by Jonathan Hotz March 29 from 6-9 pm. Shows through April 20. Hours: Tues-Fri 11 am-5 pm. 772-9605.

Coffee By Design 620 Congress St. Portland. Opening reception for "Live Wire" wall and 3-dimensional sculptures by Chris Gerquest March 28 from 5-8 pm. Shows through April 28. Hours: Mon-Thurs, 7 am-8 pm, Fri 7 am-9 pm, Sat 8 am-9 pm, Sun 8 am-6 pm. 772-5533.

Danforth Gallery 34 Danforth St. Portland. Opening reception for "Correspondence Between Islands," recent photographs by Burk Uzzle, April 13 from 6-8 pm. Shows through May 13. Sculpture and drawings by Sean Hasey and photography and collage by Eric Brewer show through April 4. Hours: Thurs-Sun noon-4 pm. 775-6245.

Falmouth Memorial Library 5 Lunt Rd. Falmouth. Seldom seen pastels and watercolors by Catherine Porter Talbot and watercolors by Mary King Longfellow show April 2-May 4. Watercolors and sketches by Merry G. Hodgson and photography by Donald J. McCrann and Martha McCrann show through March 30. 781-2351.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery 112 High St. Portland. Opening reception for "Watershed Images and Art: People With AIDS 1996" March 30 from 2-6 pm. Shows March 30, 10 am-6 pm, March 31, noon-5 pm. 772-1961.

The MECA Building 522 Congress St. Portland. Maine College of Art displays the juried work of their Annual Merit Scholarship Competition, featuring the work of top MECA students. Shows through March 31, 10 am-4 pm, April 1-2, 7:30-8 pm. 775-3052.

The Whimsical World of David Cedrone 150 High St. Portland. The grand opening of David Cedrone's new gallery, April 5 from 4-8 pm. 761-2808.

now showing

African Imports and New England Arts 28 Milk St. Portland. "Hidden Treasures," traditional African arts, rare carvings and works by modern artists from Nigeria to New England, ongoing. Hours: 10:30 am-9 pm Mon-Sat, 12-6 pm Sun. 772-9505.

Agape Center 657 Congress St. Portland. "Painted Constructions" by Billie Wolf show through March 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5 pm. 780-1500.

Bagelwerks 15 Temple St. Portland. "Cellular Dreams" photographs by Margie White, show through March 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-5 pm, Sat 7 am-4 pm, Sun 7 am-3 pm. 879-2425.

Barbara and Krista's Kitchen and Cafe 388 Cottage Rd. S. Portland. "Ice Cream and Cake" and other pastels by Ruth Bowman show through April 13. Hours: Tues-Fri 7 am-2 pm, Sat-Sun 8 am-2 pm. 767-6313.

The Baxter Gallery MECA's Photo Gallery, 619 Congress St. Portland. Photographs by Laurie Latinsky show through May 3. Hours: Tues-Sun 11 am-4 pm, Thurs 11 am-9 pm. 775-5152.

Black Moon Gallery 339 Fore St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Sat 11 am-5 pm. 774-4423.

Bowdoin College Museum of Art Walker Art Building, Brunswick. The museum is open to the public free of charge. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Mon-Sun 2-5 pm. 725-3275.

"Art & Life in the Ancient Mediterranean" An installation of Assyrian, Egyptian, Cypriot, Greek and Roman art, ongoing.

"Crosscurrents 1995" Art from Africa, Asia and the Americas, as well as contemporary objects from the permanent collection, ongoing.

"Shakespeare on French" Theodore Chassériau's series of fifteen prints illustrating Shakespeare's Othello. The exhibit explores how Chassériau's reading of a French translation resulted in images not included in the original play. Shows through March 31.

"The Bible Through the Focus of Art" Visual images of various date and technique inspired by the old and new testaments. Shows April 2-May 12.

Chamber of Commerce 145 Middle St. Portland. Mixed media by residents of Springbrook Nursing Care Center and Senior Enrichment Center. Ongoing. Hours: 8 am-5 pm, Mon-Fri. 856-1230.

Christine's Dream 41 Middle St. Portland. New works by painter James Comas Cole, Lori Austill and Andy Curran. Ongoing. Hours: Tues-Fri 7 am-2 pm, Sat-Sun 9 am-2 pm. 774-2972.

Congress Street Diner 551 Congress St. Portland. Permanent showing of murals by Anthony Taylor and Paul Brains, featuring older Congress Street art. Hours: Mon-Sun 7 am-3 pm. 773-6957.

Connections 56 Main St. Brunswick. Works from four Maine artists show through April 20. Hours: Tues-Sat, 10 am-5 pm. 725-1399.

Davidson and Daughters 148 High St. Portland. Works on paper by Margie Moore and Paul Plante shows through April 13. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-6 pm, Thurs 11 am-8 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 780-0766.

Dead Space Gallery 11 Avon St. Portland. "Recent Works and Paintings" from Charlie Hewitt and Michael Randazzo show through April 21. Hours: Thurs-Fri 5-8 pm, Sat-Sun noon-5 pm. 828-4637.

Dellah Pottery 132 Spring St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm, Sat noon-4 pm. 871-1594.

The Elvie Room 27 Forest Ave. Portland. Artwork by Zoo Cain shows through March 31. Hours: Thurs-Sat 8 pm-3 am. 775-0474.

Free Street Taverna 128 Free St. Portland. Mixed media Greek collages by Richard Lee. Hours: Mon 11 am-4 pm, Tues-Sat 11 am-10 pm. 774-1114.

Frost Gully Gallery 411 Congress St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Sat, 12-6 pm. 772-2555.

Greenhut Gallery 146 Middle St. Portland. Ongoing exhibition of work by Nancy Brown, Thomas Connolly, Connie Hayes, Martin Mugar, Alec Richardson and Ann Stein. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm. 772-2693.

Icon 19 Mason St. Brunswick. New acrylic and oil paintings by Peter McGlamery shows through April 24. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 1-4 pm. 725-8157.

Jameson Gallery 217 Commercial St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm. 772-5522.

Java Joe's 13 Exchange St. Portland. Artwork by Kate Merrick (upstairs) and Peter Dennen (downstairs) shows through mid-March. 761-5637.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery 112 High St. Portland. "Visionary Paintings" by John Bonanno show through March 29. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm, Thurs noon-8 pm. 772-1961.

Lakes Gallery & Sculpture Garden Rt. 302, South Casco. Hours: 10 am-5 pm daily. 655-5066.

Maine Potters Market 376 Fore St. Portland. Hours: 10 am-6 pm daily. 774-1633.

MECA Photo Gallery 619 Congress St. Portland. "Echoes of History" photographs by Tillman Crane show through March 29. Hours: Mon-Thurs 9 am-9 pm, Fri 9 am-5 pm. 775-5152.

MECA Faculty Exhibition The Baxter Gallery, 619 Congress St. Portland. Maine College of Art's faculty exhibition shows through March 31. Hours: Tues-Sun 11 am-4 pm, Thurs 11 am-9 pm. 775-5152.

Meander Gallery 40 Pleasant St. Portland. Hours: Tues-Sat, 12-6 pm. 871-1078.

Nancy Margolis Gallery 367 Fore St. Portland. Annual wedding band exhibit shows through March 31. Hours: Mon-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thurs 10 am-8 pm, Fri-Sat 10 am-9 pm and Sun 11 am-6 pm. 775-3822.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

byte ME

Handicapping cyberspace

You've heard a lot of hype about all the winners in the cyberspace race — like those two Stanford students who stand to make \$50 million apiece for inventing the Yahoo directory of Web sites. But you don't hear a lot about the losers, those businesses who've been displaced by new technology.

The reason's simple: It hasn't happened yet. It's still too early for photos of body bags stacked on the tarmac.

But carnage is on the way. And if I had to pick two early casualties in the looming war, I'd choose bookstores and travel agencies, two businesses whose primary product is information.



Start with bookstores. It's not that books themselves will be driven into extinction by computer technology (it's my belief that reference books are the only endangered species), it's just that the means of distributing books will change.

If you think Borders is a big threat to Portland's independent bookstores, then take a look at Amazon Books (www.amazon.com). With more than a million titles available online, it makes Border's 100,000 titles look positively anemic. A couple of weeks ago I was hunting down a book so obscure and uninteresting that not even Borders

would consider carrying it. Yet, a few clicks later I found it online, offered at a discount no less. Ignoring widespread advice, I typed in my credit card and sent my order into the ether. Four days later the book appeared in my mailbox. (And so far, no strange charges have appeared on my credit card bill.)

I know, I know. Online browsing can't ever replace the tactile joy of picking up a book when browsing a great bookstore. But consider the advantages it offers that a bookstore can't. It's your choice whether to browse by author, title or specific subject (say, New England history), so little gets lost on the shelves. Amazon is set up so that other browsers can post their own short reviews of any book, so customers can help one another decide what titles to buy. And Amazon maintains e-mail lists so that you can be notified when books of interest to you are published.

In the future, it's likely that the online bookshelf will get even better. You'll be able to see the book jackets online, read the opening paragraph or a few other excerpts, and link to published reviews of the book. I imagine turnaround time will also improve, the way mail-order computer shops can FedEx you everything the next day for \$3. The end result? Online shops will siphon away the serious readers, leaving local shops stocked primarily with Rosamunde Pilcher novels.

Travel agents may be even more at risk. There's an irony here, since travel agents are the original 'net surfers, trained to cruise computer networks looking for good deals and changes in schedules. But virtually all the major travel firms — airlines, hotels, car rental agencies — are now on the Web, offering updated information about their destinations, fares and the like directly to consumers. Several now allow you to make reservations right over the Web. More will offer the service when encryption improves and credit card numbers can be sent over the 'net with better security.

Anyone with a computer, modem and software can now track down much of that same information to which travel agents have traditionally had exclusive access. Even the major commercial online services — like CompuServe and America Online — offer access to Easy Sabre, a version of the same reservation system agents use.

Look for lots more options as entrepreneurs figure out ways to channel this torrent of travel information onto their Web sites and make it more interactive. In the not-too-distant future, it's likely you'll be able plan whole trips — comparing fares and prices at hotels and airlines, reading reviews from other travelers, looking for special deals — over the course of an evening tapping away at your keyboard. The travel agents who survive this shift will concentrate on the high end, packaging complete vacations for wealthy executives who are willing to shell out the big bucks to do nothing.

These tectonic shifts in the information economy will clearly take some time to be noticed. But when it does, buckle your seat belt. If you think porno on the Web gets people fired up, wait until you see businesses going under as middlemen get cut out by computer networks. The fireworks haven't yet begun.

■ WAYNE CURTIS

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Our brunches will feature items such as handmade pastries and desserts, omelet station to order, asparagus bisque, grilled salmon, roasted carved fresh ham and spring lamb, lobster benedict, fresh fruits, crab and artichoke crepes, grand marnier french toast, shrimp and scallop fettuccini, beet and saffron raviolis and more.

Large parties welcome.



THE AUDUBON ROOM
AT THE END OF THE SEA
Route 77 • Cape Elizabeth • Maine

Easter & Mother's Day Brunch: 10 am-4 pm
Audubon Room Dining Hours
6-9 p.m. daily
767-0888

AMERICAN

BLEACHERS. Nine varieties of char grilled burgers, 5 styles of wings, fresh turkey sandwiches, delicious crisp salads. Enjoy 11 varieties of microbrewed beer. Ask about our mug club. All in a casual atmosphere, including an outdoor patio, and always Free Peanuts. Next to Pier One, 334 Forest Ave., Portland, 772-9229.

BRI'S VARIETY AND RESTAURANT. Home cooked food at its best for over 20 years. Serving Breakfast all day. Check out our daily lunch & dinner specials at affordable prices. Try our Roast Turkey, Pot Roast, or New England Boiled Dinners. Call 772-3304 at 327 Main St. (Cash Corner) So. Portland. VISA, MC, AMEX accepted.

COLE FARMS RESTAURANT. A 40-year tradition of homestyle cooking at reasonable prices. Serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner from 5am to 10:30pm Daily in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Ask about our daily specials! Visit our new playground and picnic area and recently opened gift shop! Located on Portland-Lewiston Road 100, Gray, 657-4714.

CRICKETS RESTAURANT. Great food at reasonable prices. Your hometown restaurant with an extensive menu to satisfy all tastes and budgets. All major credit cards accepted. Now with TWO LOCATIONS 1/2 mile south of L.L. Bean in Freeport 865-4005 and next to Filene's Basement at Maine Mall in South Portland, 775-5531.

THE 11 BROWN STREET RESTAURANT. Creative dining in the heart of Portland's Art District. Only 75 steps from the Cumberland County Civic Center. Specializing in fresh seafood. Sports Bar, banquets, business lunches. 11 Brown St., Portland, 780-1100. VISA, MC, AMEX. Parking.

RAOUL'S ROADSIDE ATTRACTION. Enjoy lunch or dinner in our funky, casual atmosphere, comfortable enough to bring a date or dine alone. Sandwiches, appetizers, vegetarian items and homemade desserts. Mon-Fri 11:30am-1am. Sunday in our downstairs Pub 4pm-1am. MC & Visa accepted. Parking. 865 Forest Ave. Portland, 773-6886.

ROSIE'S. Full bar. Free popcorn. All major credit cards. Full menu. Rated "The Best Restaurant/Tavern" by 5 newspapers. Daily specials 11:00am 'til 1:00am. 330 Fore St., Portland, 772-5656.

RUSKI'S. Best breakfast in the city served all day. Six page menu available anytime. Portland's oldest continuously running tavern - since 1880. All major credit cards. Open at 7:00am Mon-Sat, 9:00am on Sunday. 212 Danforth St., Portland, 774-7604.

STONE COAST BREWING COMPANY. Enjoy Casco Bay Creole Cuisine in our smoke-free diningroom & live entertainment in our upstairs "smoking room." Serving

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1996 - CBW READER'S POLL**

delicious appetizers such as Stone Coast Baked Oysters, soups, salads, sandwiches, and entrees such as jambalaya & sirloin etouffe. Dining hours: 11:30am-11:30pm. MC, VISA, AMEX, parking, 6. 14 York St., Portland, 773-2337.

THREE DOLLAR DEWEY'S. The Friendly Gathering Place. Featuring a variety of homemade daily specials and desserts including soups, chowders, our own fresh roasted turkey & roast beef, vegetarian, seafood, ethnic dishes, pizza, char-broiled burgers and of famous 3 Alarm Chili. For a great meal that will fill you up but not empty your wallet. TRY US! Expanded selection of best brews from Maine and away. At the corner of Commercial & Union Sts. Portland, 772-3310.

CAFE
FRESH APPROACH. The West End is getting fresh. Fresh coffee, baked goods, soups, salads, sandwiches & desserts can be enjoyed in our in-store cafe. Open M-F 7am-7pm Sunday 9am-5pm. 155 Brackett St., Portland (former Good Day Market location) 774-3297

FRIENDSHIP CAFE. Exceptional foods, breakfast and lunch served. Daily specials, Espresso, cappuccino. Located near Longfellow Square (where Good Egg was formerly located.) Portland's newest and fresh home-made meals! Open 6am-2pm Mon-Sat, 6:30-2 Sun. 703 Congress St., Portland, 871-5005.

PORT BAKE HOUSE. Take-out fresh baked pastries and great lunches. Summer seating on the deck. Soups with pizzaz, creative deli sandwiches and healthy salads. 205 Commercial St., Portland, 773-2217.

VICTORY DELI & BAKE SHOP. Hearty breakfasts, mouth watering baked from scratch breads and pastries — freshly prepared soups, stews, salads, pasta and vegetarian specialties, delicious sandwiches. Beer & wine. Monument Square, 299 Forest Ave. and One Portland Square. MC/VISA accepted. 772-7299, 772-3913, 772-8186.

DINER

BECKY'S ON HOBBSON'S WHARF. Breakfast, lunch and now serving dinner Tuesday-Saturday evenings until 9pm. Hours: Tuesday-Friday 4am-9pm, Friday midnight-Saturday 9pm, Saturday midnight-Sunday 1pm, Monday 4am-2pm. Parking. 6. 390 Commercial St., Portland, 773-7070.

BOOKSTORE/CAFE
BORDERS BOOKS, MUSIC & CAFE. Grab your favorite book or periodical and stroll over to our full espresso bar where you can select from a variety of specialty coffees, pastries, desserts and lunch/dinner items. Our hours are Mon-Sat: 9am-10:30pm, Sun: 9am-8:30pm. MC/Visa welcome. 430 Gorham Rd., at the Maine Mall.

CARIBBEAN
FEDERAL SPICE. Home cooked Caribbean/Southwestern fare. Featuring heart smart selections. All items less than \$6! Everything available to go. Limited radius delivery 11:30-1:30 M-F. Hours M-Th 11-8, F-Sat 11-9. 225 Federal Street, Portland, 774-6404.

CHINESE
POLYNESIAN VILLAGE. Serving Polynesian and Cantonese cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere. Exotic cocktails and full lunch and dinner specials. Live weekend entertainment. VISA, MC, American Express. Diner's Club. Parking. 6. 152 Main St., Westbrook, 854-9188.

DESSERT
PATE A CHOUX. A fine dessert restaurant! Featuring hand-made European style desserts with coffee, tea & espresso drinks available. Weekend dessert specials. Table service or take-out. Winter hours: Tues-Thurs. 5pm-11pm, Fri. 5pm-midnight. Saturday 1pm-midnight.

night, Sunday 1-7pm. Closed Mondays. 25 Pearl Street, Portland, 773-3334.

ECCLECTIC

THE AUDUBON ROOM. Ocean views, elegant & intimate atmosphere, fine dining featuring New American Cuisine. House specialties include Maine Lobster Bisque, Grilled Seafoods, Vegetarian Pastas, Pan-seared Crabcakes & Rack of Lamb. Sinful, handmade desserts may include Pomegranate Sorbet, Cappuccino Ice Cream or White Chocolate Macadamia Nut Tart. Open daily: breakfast, lunch, dinners from 6:00pm. Reservations recommended. Off premise catering. MC, Visa, Amex, Discover. Inn By The Sea, Cape Elizabeth. 767-0888.

CAFE ALWAYS. 47 Middle St., 774-9399. Modern American Cuisine served Wednesday-Sunday evenings from 5pm. Join Cafe Always and our Chef Tracy Burke as she prepares her new "Spa Menu" offering delicious low and non-fat dishes. Extensive wine by the glass list. Voted "Most Romantic Restaurant" by Casco Bay Weekly. Free parking in the lot adjacent to the restaurant. CC, LL, R.

DAVID'S RESTAURANT. 164 Middle St. 773-4340. Open for dinner nightly. Elegant and romantic candle light dining with Portland's most comfortable high back leather chairs. Chef David Turin turns out 4 star cuisine with remarkable, farm fresh produce and native products. Crispy goat cheese packets with grilled vegetables and frizzled leeks followed by sesame and coriander crusted tuna with garlic, ginger and soy is unbelievable, or sample the seafood sausage with lobster carrot oil and the always great sauté of lobster. Also available is a 5 course wine dinner with 5 wines, a great value at \$52 per person. Don't skip dessert!

GOOD TABLE. Casual. Tasty weekend brunch. Full bar. Featuring seafood, barbecue & Greek. Old jazz music and good looking staff. Honest food, honest prices. "Almost Free" 2 meals for \$10.95 on Tues-Thurs 11am-9pm. Open Tues-Fri. 11am-9pm, Saturday 8am-9pm Sunday 8-3. MC/Visa. Parking Rte 77 Cape Elizabeth. 799-4663.

GREAT LOST BEAR. Full bar — now featuring 50 beers on tap. Extensive menu... sandwiches, soups, salads, platters. Lunch or dinner in the mysterious Woodfords area. MC, Visa, Amex accepted. Parking. 540 Forest Ave. Portland, 772-0300.

KATADIN. Daily Blue Plate Specials \$9.95 and unpretentious fare like Buckwheat Pasta. Homemade, Good Cookin. Monday-Thursday 5-10 p.m., Friday & Saturday 5-11 p.m.. Corner of Spring and High St. Portland.

PEPERES CAFE. Specializing in gourmet breakfasts, eclectic luncheon menus, and tailored catering menus. Try us for tea time 2-4pm weekdays. 14 Cumberland St., Westbrook, 856-6000.

TABITHA JEANS. American regional cuisine. Lunch and Dinner. Relaxed atmosphere. Full cocktail service. Pasta. Seafood. Grilled Entrées. Validated parking. 94 Free St. 6 • V • MC • AMEX • DISC. 780-8966.

THE WEST SIDE CAFE. Offering fresh game and seafood, organic produce. Moderately priced entrees and a casual, comfortable ambience. MC, Visa, AMEX accepted. Parking. Reservations suggested. 58 Pine St. Portland, 773-8223.

FRENCH
LE BISTRO DU LAC. Jane and Frank Leconte welcome you to their home to sample their casual French country cooking. Choose from hearty homemade soups & stews, salads, steaks, lobster, duck, pork. Reservations requested. MC/Visa, AMEX. Route 302 at 85, Raymond, 855-4100.

GREEK
FREE STREET TAVERNA. Authentic Greek food. Family recipes and friendly atmosphere. First level: eatery/taverna. Second level: smoke free dining. NEW APPE-TIZER MENU and great weekend specials. Happy Holi-

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days Happy Hour 2 for 1 drinks and drafts M-F 4-7pm. MC Visa accepted. 128 Free St., Portland, 774-1114.

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PORTLAND WINE & CHEESE. Delicious homemade soups and sandwiches, wines, champagnes and cheeses. Large selection of gourmet foods. Gift and picnic baskets. Party platters, catering and deliveries. MC, Visa and Amex accepted. 168 Middle St., Portland, 772-4647.

INDIAN
THE CLAY OVEN. Serving authentic Indian cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere. The moist kebabs are cooked on a slow charcoal fire, while the curries are prepared with freshly ground herbs and spices. The Clay Oven has been opened by a group of professionals who run very successful Indian restaurants in Mass. & R.I. Serving 7 days 11-10. Accepting all major credit cards. 565 Congress St., Portland, 773-1444.

TANDOOR RESTAURANT. Step through our doors and immerse yourself in the atmosphere of old India. Serving authentically prepared chicken, lamb, seafood and vegetarian dishes. Seasoned as mild or hot as you like. Serving lunch & dinner. Take out available. VISA/MC/Discover. 88 Exchange St., Portland, 775-4259.

ITALIAN
ANTHONY'S ITALIAN KITCHEN. Great Italian food made from old family recipes. "Best sauces in Portland." Low prices, high quality. Pizza, pasta, and sandwiches. Find us, you'll be glad! 151 Middle St., Portland (lower level), 774-8668.

FRESH MARKET PASTA. For the best homemade pastas and sauces in Portland. Open for lunch, dinner. Italian wine and beers. Espresso, Cappuccino. Desserts. Bring the family! MC, Visa and Amex accepted. 43 Exchange St., Portland, 773-7146.

PIZZERIA/DELI
TURINO'S STONE OVEN PIZZERIA. 164 Middle St. 780-6600. Open for lunch and dinner daily. Lunch buffet \$5.95, all you can eat Mon-Fri 11:30am-1:30pm. Maine's only stone oven pizza, serving authentic stone cooked gourmet pizza from old Naples. Great things with wild mushrooms, prosciutto, artichoke hearts and fresh herbs. More than you would expect on a pizza for not very much money. Probably the best pizza in Maine! Take out available.

BAR-B-QUE
NORM'S BAR BQ. Small chef owned BarBQ restaurant. Featuring Norm's wicked good sauce, 3 types or ribs, fried chicken, spicy black bean soup, homemade cornbread and daily specials. Now serving beer and wine. Hours: Mon. & Tues. closed, Wed. & Thurs. 12-10, Fri. & Sat. 12-12, Sun. 9-9. 774-6711. 43 Middle St., Portland.

UPTOWN BILLY'S BARBEQUE. Enjoy Portland's Original Bar-B-Que menu, legendary spare ribs, beef brisket, voodoo jerk chicken and more in a comfortable French Quarter setting. Chef Saint Laurent's etouffees, jambalayas, panéed chicken & shrimp, and sumptuous big Tbone steaks. Full bar. Entertainment. Lunch, Dinner. Take-out. Smoke free. Cappuccino/espresso. Luncheon 11:30-2:30. Happy Hour 4-6. Dinner 5-Close. 1 Forest Ave (just off Congress) Parking Available. 780-0141.

MEXICAN
MARGARITAS. Specializing in delicious "hand-made" southern California style Mexican appetizers and dinners, served in overly generous portions! Join us for

Happy Hour every weekday from 4-7 p.m., with FREE appetizers, \$1.95 for a 22 oz. draft beer and other good stuff! There's also 2 for 1 dinners, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Mon-Thurs. 1242 St. John St., Union Station Plaza, Portland. Open at 4 p.m. daily. 874-6444.

MESA VERDE. We are what we eat so we serve only the finest, freshest natural foods. Flavorful, healthful Mexican dishes. Daily vegan and vegetarian specials. Drink to your health at our juice bar. Happy Hour Mon-Fri 2:30-5:00. Fresh juices, fruit shakes, smoothies, juice combinations come see what Portland's first and only juice bar is all about. Casual atmosphere. Serving lunch & dinner. Take out available. 618 Congress Street (across from the State Theatre) 774-6089.

TORTILLA FLAT. Seventeen years of serving fine Mexican cuisine. Just minutes from downtown Portland. A memorable Mexican experience you can afford anytime. Outdoor screened in deck. Parking. VISA, M/C, Discover. 187 Forest Ave. Portland, 797-8729.

SOUTHWESTERN
ZUNI. Southwestern to Caribbean cuisine. Great food, outstanding value, over-changing menu. Fresh squeezed fruit drinks. Smoke-free environment. Dinner Tues-Sun. MC, VISA and AMEX. 21 Pleasant Street, Portland, 774-5260.

SEAFOOD
DAVID'S AT THE OYSTER CLUB. 164 Middle St. 773-4340. Open for lunch and dinner daily as well as Sunday Brunch. One of Maine's Premier seafood restaurants set in a converted open air market building featuring an abundant raw bar, 20 varieties of seafood, lobsters, a tantalizing array of fresh pasta dishes, micro brews. Maine's largest single malt scotches list, great wine list and frozen drinks. Specialties include lobster, scallop and sweet potato cakes with red pepper and lobster sauce and don't miss the white chocolate mousse almond cookie napoleon for dessert.

DOCK FORD. Great food in a friendly, casual atmosphere. Homemade soups, chowders, lobster stew, sandwiches, fresh dough pizzas, steak, and seafood! Check us out for lunch, Happy Hour, or for a relaxing dinner. All major credit cards accepted. 336 Fore St. Portland, 772-8619.

GILBERT'S CHOWDER HOUSE. Friendly Downeast style dining. Seafood straight from Maine waters: hand cut fries and onion rings. Award winning chowder. NOW SERVING BREAKFAST! Eggs benedict topped with crab or shrimp, Belgian waffles and all the traditional favorites. Parking. 92 Commercial St., Portland, 871-5636.

JORDAN'S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT AND STEAK HOUSE. "Catch the Taste Today!" You'll be glad you did \$3.95-\$11.95. Steaks too. Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner - Bar. Open 7 days, 6am-9pm. 700 Main St., So. Portland, 780-8434. MC, VISA, AMEX, Parking.

J'S OYSTER. White linen quality dining in a relaxed atmosphere. Shellfish and pasta dishes our specialty. Lovely view of Portland's working harbor. MC/Visa/Discover accepted. Parking in adjacent lot. 5 Portland Pier, Portland, 772-4828.

WORLD CUISINE
PEPPER CLUB. Blackboard menu offers fresh seafood, exotic chicken dishes, organic beef burgers and award-winning vegetarian entrees. All priced under \$10.00. Wine & beer. Smoke-free. No Credit Cards. Open 7 nights a week. 78 Middle St. Portland, 772-0531.

PUB FARE
BRIAN BORU. Offers traditional Irish fare as well as not so traditional pub alternatives. Fresh stews, homemade breads, awesome pub sandwiches and pasta dishes. Credit cards & handicapped accessible. Irish Brunch and \$1.50 Bass, Bar & Guinness all day Sunday. VISA, MC, AMEX 57 Center St., Portland.

RUSSIAN HOUSE /CAFÉ MOSKOW

Come enjoy the beautiful sounds of

BALALAIKAS

"Music & Song of Eastern Europe"

March 30, 5pm-8pm

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We're inviting you to experience the wonderful sounds of the Maine Balalaikas along with our special of the day "shish kabob" in celebration of this concert

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COOKIES, CHOCOLATES AND CANDIES • JAMS, JELLIES AND PRESERVES
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In downtown
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someone breaks a sweat."

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when the moon is
full! We call it
**Full Moon
Margarita
Madness!**
Win great
prizes!
Enjoy great
Mexican food
while 5% of
all sales are
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to charity.

Make it a ritual.

FULL MOON MADNESS PARTY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3. COME JOIN THE FUN.
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The Sports & Fitness Center of Maine

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

O'Farrell Gallery 58 Maine St., Brunswick. Prints and painting by Neil Welliver show through March. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm. 729-8228.
On Balance 4 Milk St., Portland. "Impressions: Monhegan Island," photographs by Nancy Meyer, show through April 28. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-4:30 pm. 772-9812.

Perfetto's Restaurant 28 Exchange St., Portland. "Almost Edible," paintings by Kate Merrick, ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sun 11 am-11 pm. 828-0001.
Pilgrimage 441 Congress St., Portland. "Restitutur Sacorum: Restorer of Sacred Things," an exhibition of non-traditional icons by Three Fish Guild shows through April 13. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-4 pm. 772-1508.

Pine Tree Shop and Bayview Gallery 75 Market St., Portland. Hours: Mon-Tues 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Wed-Sat 9:30 am-8 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. 773-3007.

Portland Coffee Roasting Company 111 Commercial St., Portland. "Secret Nightlife of the Office Copier" shows through April 17. 6:30 am-5:30 pm daily. 761-9525.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Sq., Portland. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Thurs 10-9, Sun 12-5. Admission: \$6 adults/\$5 students and seniors/\$1 youth 6-12 years. Museum admission is free 10-noon the first Saturday of the month and 5-9 every Thursday evening. 775-6148 or 1-800-639-4067.

• **The Scott M. Black Collection** An sampling from Scott Black's 19th- and 20th-century paintings and sculptures.

• **19th- and 20th-Century European and American Art** Paintings, sculptures and works on paper by Monet, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and other masters of the past two centuries. Ongoing.

• **"Twentieth-Century Sculpture"** Features 18 works showing the diversity of sculptural production in this century. Shows through March 31.

• **"From Monet to Matisse: The Origins of Modernism"** A complete overview of French art from early impressionism through Neo-Impressionism to Fauvism. Ongoing.

• **15th Annual Youth Art Month Exhibition** featuring 100 works of art from students of all ages from throughout Maine shows through March 31.

• **"Visible Structure"** works by Dorothea Rockburne, show through June 2.

• **"Phillippe Halsman: A Gallery of Stars"** Documenting twenty years of Halsman's ability to capture "star quality" of some of America's favorite entertainers. Featuring Lucille Ball, Milton Berle and Dinah Shore. Ongoing.

• **Photographs by Todd Webb** Celebrating fifty years of work by this renowned photographer and Bath resident. Shows through June 30.

Portland Pottery 118 Washington Ave., Portland. Second annual teapot show. Ongoing show of unique and functional ceramics and jewelry by Lisa Bonarri, teachers and students. Hours: Mon-Fri 9-6 pm. 772-4334.

Portland Public Library's Monument Square, Portland. "Weavings: An Ancient Memory" the latest series of tapestries by Tina Marie Wood show through March 30 in the Lewis Gallery. Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9 am-6 pm, Tues & Thurs 12-9 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm. 871-1700.

Ruffe's Cafe Bookstore 555 Congress St., Portland. Abstract watercolors by Bernice Beckman show through March 31. Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 8 am-5:30 pm, Thurs 8 am-8 pm, Sat 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 761-3930.

Renaissance Antiques 221 Commercial St., Portland. Ongoing show of works by John Dehlinger, Wilder Oaks, Terry Wolf and other Maine artists. Hours: 10 am-7 pm daily. 879-0789.

SALT Gallery 17 Pine St., Portland. Exhibit of fall term students' work shows through April 27. Hours: Wed & Fri 2-6 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm. 761-0660.

Sawyer Street Gallery 131 Sawyer St., Portland. Pottery and clay sculpture by the 11 ceramic artists working in the studio. Ongoing. Hours: Thurs 4-8 pm, Fri & Sat 10 am-6 pm, and by appointment. 767-7113.

South Portland Public Library 482 Broadway, S. Portland. "Electronic Images, Using the Computer to Create Art" works by Nancy Hubley, Polly Crane and Beatrice Gordon show through March 30. Hours: Mon-Tues 10 am-8 pm, Wed 1-8 pm, Thurs-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat 9 am-2 pm. 767-7660.

Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers 415 Cumberland Ave., Portland. Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am-5 pm. 774-3791.

TP Perkins & Co. 6 Free Street, Portland. Primitive folk art by Annette Lacroix, ongoing. Hours: Mon-Thurs & Sat, 10 am-6 pm, Fri from 10 am-9 pm and Sun from 12-5 pm. 871-8299.

USM Art Gallery, USM Campus, Gorham. Hours: Tues-Sun 11 am-3 pm. 780-5008.

USM Osher Map Library 314 Forest Ave., Portland. Hours: Wed 1-4:30 pm and 6-8 pm, Thurs & Sat from 9 am-12:30 pm. 780-4850.

USM's Stone House Wolf Neck Rd., Freeport. Work by the printmaking students of Jeana Bearce and Lawrence Rakovan shows through April 30. By appointment only. 780-5409.

Waynflete Community Art Exhibition 4 Emery St., Portland. Artwork by faculty, staff, parents, grandparents and alumni shows through April 10 in the library. 774-5721.

Zuni Bar & Grill 21 Pleasant St., Portland. Paintings by Steven J. Priestley and selections from Davidson Gallery, ongoing. Hours: Tues-Sun, 5 pm-10 pm. 774-5260.

other

Archibald The PMA presents a series of lectures by internationally recognized architects and landscape artists. March 28: "Landscapes That Speak Softly" with Carol Johnson. April 4: "International Museums" with Jose Rafael Moneo. At 7 pm in the auditorium. Cost: \$2. 775-6148.

Artists Apply Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, invites artists to submit work for one-month exhibition in the Lewis gallery. 871-1758.

Artists Congress III The New England Artists Trust seeks artists interested in participating in this four-day gathering of artists June 20-23 in Portland. Write to: Artists Congress III, c/o Maine Arts Commission, SHS 25, Augusta, Me 04333-0025 or 287-2750.

Artists Submissions wanted for the Chocolate Church "After Winter" juried exhibit April 14-May 25. Deliver submissions on April 9, between 9 am-4 pm, to the Chocolate Church, 804 Washington St., Bath. Up to three works may be submitted — no fee. 442-8455.

"ATHENA: A Journal for Positive Women" seeks submissions of poetry, photography, short stories and drawings on the topic of spirituality, by women with HIV/AIDS. Sponsored by the Maine Women's Fund. Send submissions to: ATHENA, The AIDS Project, P.O. Box 5305, Portland ME 04101. 774-6877.

Creative Work Systems' Evening Arts Program offers a workshop in clay. Come build a sculpture or functional vessel, glaze your work and display your final project at an opening. Small fee. For more info, call Amy at 879-1140.

Danforth Gallery 34 Danforth St., Portland, seeks artists to participate in Corporate Art Loan Program. Please send 5-10 slides, resume and pricing information. Include SASE for return of slides. 775-6245.

"Emerging Artists" Danforth Gallery wants your submissions for their exhibit planned for a June 6 opening. Artists must reside in Maine or have spent considerable time working here. For a copy of the exhibit guidelines, send a SASE to: 35 Danforth St., Portland, ME 04101. Entries, consisting of ten slides or prints of recent work, should be postmarked by April 15. If you would like work returned include a SASE. 775-6245.

Gardeners: Call for Entries Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts seeks gardeners and landscape artists to participate in the "Watershed Walk" June 22-23. Prizes will be awarded. For more information about becoming a gardening participant contact Lynn Gilson, Molly Pitkin, or Sophia Gabriel at Watershed. 882-6075.

Healing Through Arts A group integrating art, healing and spiritual development meets the last Sun of the month from 7-9 pm at Studio 311, 20-36 Danforth St., Portland. Next meeting: March 31. 780-1881.

"Maine: Prints and Poetry" April 4. In celebration of National Poetry Month, PMA and the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance present a night of poetry readings inspired by nature and by Maine, featuring Candice Stover, Thomas Carper and Steve Luttrell. At PMA, 7 Congress Sq., Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 775-6148.

MECA Open House Tours Come visit Maine College of Art's new studio space at 522 Congress Street. Tours begin at noon every Tuesday through June 4. Free. RSVP 775-5098.

Open Slide Night The Union of Maine Visual Artists invites artists, craftpeople and anyone interested to attend an open slide night the second Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at Jay York Affordable Project, 58 Wilmot St., Portland. Bring slides for discussion/feedback. 773-3434.

Portland Camera Club holds weekly meeting, Mon at 7:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 413 Broadway, S. Portland. Monthly events include B&W, color print and color slide competition. 854-3763.

Portland Chamber of Commerce is looking for Maine artists to share their work. 772-2811, ext. 223.

Photography Submissions The Danforth Gallery seeks entries for the 3rd Danforth Photography National Exhibition "Visions of the Mind: on the darker side." For prospectus send #10 SASE to: Danforth Gallery, 20-36 Danforth St., Portland, Me. 04101. Entries must be postmarked by August 1, 1996. 775-6245.

Pottery Classes for kids and adults offered at Sawyer Street Studios, S. Portland. Costs and times vary. 767-4394.

Randy Bean Fund Created in honor of long-time member of Maine Arts Sponsors Association (MASA) Randy Bean, to assist an artist in attending the annual MASA conference. Contributions may be sent to: The MASA Randy Bean Fund, P.O. Box 2352, Augusta, ME 04338. 626-3277.

Sawyer Street Studios 131 Sawyer St., Portland. Announces its spring classes in pottery and clay sculpture for adults and children beginning the week April 8. Hours: Thurs 4-8 pm, Fri & Sat 10 am-6 pm, and by appointment. 767-7113.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Peace groove



Drumfest: Ekemode and two of his All-Stars.

Why it's hard to make war when you're shaking your booty to O.J. Ekemode's Afrobeat

■ PATTI HORVAT

Nigerian saxophonist O.J. Ekemode believes African music isn't just for Africans — it's for everyone, including the folks in his new home, Nashville.

"African music is not popular here," Ekemode told *CBW* in a recent interview. "I love it because we are really reaching out to people to share our culture and music. I believe Nashville is a music city, but I think without African music it's not complete."

Ekemode moved to Nashville a year ago after spending about 20 years in California, where he studied film at The Berkeley Film Institute and toured with South African musician Hugh Masekela. Because of Nashville's history as a launching pad for so much American music, Ekemode decided to set up shop there in a former car factory to teach African music, develop other world beat bands and spread African music and culture.

He also produces a world beat cable television program. Ekemode and his Nigerian All-stars, a seven-piece band of musicians from Nigeria and the United States, play an energetic, jazz-laced and danceable Afrobeat. "I had been playing indigenous African drums for a long time in Nigeria before I started putting Afrobeat together in 1958," said Ekemode. "The rhythm remained the background of the music. Then I put some jazz elements into it."

On Ekemode's latest release, "We Pray for World Peace," conga drums, talking drums and shakara drums (small hand drums made with pottery and one skin) converse polyrhythmically with melodic and rhythmic phrases played on bass, guitar and tenor sax. Building on African percussion, Ekemode incorporates elements of reggae, juju, calypso and jazz to create Afrobeat.

An exchange of music, dance and song was part of daily life for Ekemode growing up. He and his friends made their own drums; when his mother sang at home in the evenings, he would play his drum and sing with her. "In Nigeria there are no laws about how loud you can play or how late. When you play congas outside in Nigeria everyone joins you and appreciates what you do," he said. When he and his friends jammed in California, he said the police stopped them because it was too noisy. In that sense, he said there is more "freedom of movement and having fun" in Nigeria.

Later, he picked up the saxophone and started playing along to the recordings of John Coltrane and Charlie Parker. Radio stations in Nigeria do not play just one kind of music, he explained. "We have only one station that plays everything. People are exposed to music from everywhere."

Ekemode's performances have a joint-party feel. In traditional African dress, he and his band move to the underlying pulses of high-energy West African grooves and mellower, jazzy pieces. "The message I want people to get is the message of peace and love," said Ekemode. "First is peace. When there's no peace there's no love, only fake love, you know. The whole world has a lot of problems. Music can bring us together, not war and fighting." *CBW*

muSic
O.J. EKEMODE & THE NIGERIAN ALL-STARS PERFORM MARCH 28 AT 7:30 P.M. AT ZOOTZ, 31 FOREST AVE. TICKETS: \$10. 773-8187.

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The Women of My Father's House directed by: *Andrew Scholoff*

March 28 - April 21
8:00pm Thursday - Saturday
7:00pm Sunday
Tickets: \$16, \$18, and \$20

Please call ahead for reservations

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Kris Clark presents **O.J. Ekemode** (Thurs 3/28)
7:30pm • 21+ • \$10

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Thurs: Bourbon & Coke w/Mel
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Sat: Rotating Specials w/George

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A twenty-week advertising special featuring a column by
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On Portland's Waterfront

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Cross, as Portland's oldest family-owned jewelry store, has a tradition of excellence which spans four generations. The philosophy which guides our store is that all jewelry must be made from the best precious metals, designed for beauty, designed to last, set with the finest gems and accurately represented. Our philosophy and commitment to excellence is your greatest assurance that anything you buy from Cross will represent true value and provide maximum satisfaction. The benefits of buying your diamond at Cross include:

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Cross' Diamond Setting Shop: Cross' Diamond Setting Shop is staffed by America's finest diamond setters, and is visible from our show room. The first rule of our diamond setting shop is, "take whatever amount of time is necessary to set the diamond most securely and most beautifully." Few people realize that, at the moment a properly weighted prong is pushed over the edge of a diamond, over 45 pounds of pressure is exerted on the diamond. Careful preparations are required to ensure that the precious metal on which the diamond rests is perfectly smooth, and properly supports the diamond. Because of their value, diamonds are never set "while you wait" at Cross Jewelers. Any time pressure on a diamond setting increases the risk to the diamond. For the safety of your diamond, setting in our shop is always scheduled within a block of time, allowing maximum time for all preparation details. The safety and security of your diamond depends on the quality of the mounting, the philosophy of the diamond setting shop, and most importantly, the skills and attention to detail by the diamond setter. If you would like to learn more about diamond setting, ask for a copy of our "Quality of Stone Setting" guide, written by Cross Jewelers.

Cross Diamond Prices are Real: For over three quarters of a century, Cross Jewelers has maintained a consistent, conservative pricing philosophy that allows you to shop with the "real price" on every piece of jewelry in our store. Items are priced according to their true value — we never have sales or offer discounts, because prices are not inflated to allow for the "real price" on every piece of jewelry in our store. We find that people enjoy shopping in a store where quality is accurately represented and the values are real — 365 days of the year. When non-ideal cut discount and sale diamonds are accurately graded for cut, color and clarity and accurately weighed for their carat weight, their "savings" often not only vanish when compared to an Ideal Cut diamond, but may be priced at a premium over the Ideal Cut.

Cross is a Teaching Jewelry Store: We have always found that whenever consumers have the facts, they make informed decisions and have the highest level of satisfaction in their purchase. Our entire staff is committed to taking any amount of time necessary to answer your questions and give you the background information necessary to make a decision concerning gems and jewelry. Cross has just completed a 24-page booklet titled "Cross's Guide To The World's Most Beautiful Diamonds." If you have been thinking of the purchase of a diamond, we invite you to stop and receive your free copy.

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Open Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Thursday 'til 8:30 p.m.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

Young at Art 30 Caleb St. Portland offers courses for kids ages 5-13 in clay sculpture and mixed media. Classes are held at South Portland Recreation, 21 Nelson Rd., S. Portland. 767-7950, or call Judy Faust for more info 761-9488.

smarts

Agape Center for Soul, Community and the Arts, 657 Congress St., Portland, offers lectures and workshops on various topics. "Singing for the Fun of It" with Marcus Gale meets Tuesdays at 7:30 pm. Cost: \$5. "Meditation in Community," with Joan Orr Wadman, meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7 pm. Cost: \$5. "Song Circle," breathing and singing exercises with Gabriella Mira, meets Fridays at 7:30 pm. Cost: \$5. March 28: "The User's Guide to the Human Body" with Thomas Myers at 7:30 pm. Cost: \$10-\$15. March 30: Indian Celebration of Happiness, 3-9 pm. Cost: \$30-\$40. 781-1500.

"Alexander Technique" Sessions are offered Fridays in March at On Balance, 4 Milk St., Portland. Led by certified teacher, Maria Jackson Parker. Free. 729-0839.

Boatbuilding Cooperative, to provide space and tools for amateur builders. For more info, call 766-2563. **"Charting the Course to Your Next Job"** A three-part workshop focusing on helping people find career security. Sat. April 6, May 4 and May 11, from 9 am-3 pm. At Bookland, Cooks Corner, Brunswick. Fee: \$150. Preregistration required. 442-7260.

Computer Know-How The Small Business Development Center at USM has two Lotus/IBM Learning Centers, available to help people in business learn how to use Lotus 123, One-Write Plus and WordPerfect 5.1. Appointments available Mon-Fri. Internet access courses available also. Free. 780-9449.

Computer Training Courses offered at Technology Training Center, 39 Darling Ave., S. Portland. 780-6765.

"Finding Yourself in Transition" Learn to use change for spiritual awakening. A six-week course, meeting Mondays from 7-9 pm. Led by Kathleen Spellman. 865-3776.

"Here Goes the Neighborhood" A 6-week series focusing on the relationship between Portland's downtown churches and the neighborhoods they strive to serve. Thursdays from 5:30-7 pm, at State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland. Next meeting: March 774-6395.

Income Tax Assistance Andover College accounting students and faculty offer free help with your tax forms March 31 and April 5 from 9-11:30 am, at Andover College, 901 Washington Ave., Portland. 774-6126.

Intercultural Discussion Group meets Mondays, 7 pm, at the Center for Intercultural Education, 565 Congress St., Portland. Volunteers are needed as well. 775-0547.

Internet Access at USM for small business owners. Explore how the Internet can help your business. Appointments are available Mon-Fri. Free but limited. 780-9449.

Internet Training Classes Internet Maine offers introductory and intermediate classes on how to use the net and HTML made easy every three weeks, at 449 Forest Ave., Portland. Cost: \$25. 780-0416.

Investment Strategy Legg Mason presents a free seminar March 30 about his investment strategy. At 465 Congress St., Portland, at 10 am. Space is limited, call ahead. 775-5678.

Japanese Lessons with Japan America Society of Maine, at 993 Forest Ave., Portland. Classes available for kids and adults. 878-9440.

Language Exchange 392 Forest Ave., Portland. Offers seminars and workshops on foreign languages. 772-0405.

Lebanese Fiction Writing Workshop Contact Joanne to join. 797-2856.

Maharishi Vedic School 575 Forest Ave., Portland. "Normalizing Blood Pressure with the Transcendental Meditation Program," a lecture on the health benefits of TM April 3 at 7 pm and every Sat at 10 am. March 30, "Maharishi Vedic Astrology" at 7:30 pm. 774-1108.

Maine Conference Investigating Crimes Committed by the FBI March 31. The 9th annual conference features former FBI agent Wesley Swearingin and former undercover agent Stetson Kennedy. At Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston, at 1 pm. Free. 293-3479.

Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick, offers workshops on a regular basis. March 30: "The Personal Essay" with Deborah Dufresno, at the Maine Writers Center. Cost: \$55 (\$45 members). April 6: "Act Out" with Martin Steingasser from 11 am-4 pm. \$55 (\$45 members/\$25 kids). April 1: "The Craft of the Act: Verse Technique for Poets" a six-week workshop with Ted Boon, Mondays from 6:30-8:30 pm. Cost: \$115 (\$90 members). Preregistration required. 729-6333.

Motlovich Society An educational organization of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and friends meets the second and fourth Thurs of the month. March 28: "Developing the Ever-Blooming Garden from Spring to Fall" from 7:30-9 pm at Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Free. 761-4380.

Mother-Daughter Communication Workshop The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Office offers "Feelings, Facts and Values" a workshop for mothers and daughters (age 9-13) to help increase communication in their relationship. At 7 Chamberlain Ave., Portland, April 6, 13, & 20 from 9:30-11:30 am. Cost: \$15 (scholarships are available). Call to register. 780-4205.

Music Scholarship Competition June 8. Auditions for the 1996 Emily K. Rand college level music scholarships will be held at Corthell Hall, USM Campus, Gorham, beginning at 9:30 pm. Open to residents of Cumberland, York and Oxford counties, between the ages of 17-25, who will be music majors in the fall of 1996. Deadline for applications is May 6. Contact: Joyce Chaplin, Emily K. Rand Competition Chair, 92 Raymond Rd., Brunswick, Me. 04011. 725-1125.

"Japanese Business Culture and Language" The World Affairs Council of Maine presents a breakfast meeting March 28 at 7:30 am. At The Woodlands Club, 39 Woods Rd., Falmouth. Cost: \$15 (\$10 members). 780-4551.

Portland Laptop Users Group meets Mondays at 7:15 am at the Clark Associates Building, 2331 Congress St., Portland. Reservations and a laptop required. 775-1140 or 772-8666.

Portland Pottery/Pottery Jewelry and basket-making classes. Wide selection for adults and children. 772-4334.

Portland Public Access Cable offers video production classes in studio, location and editing this winter and spring. Create programming for Channel 2, 780-5941 or 780-5957.

Portland Public Library Brown Bag Lecture Series presents "Holding Patterns" April 24 with poet Candace Stover. Bring your lunch. Wed noon-1 pm in the Rines Auditorium, 5 Monument St., Portland. 874-1758.

Portland Surf Order offers classes and discussions at the Expressive Therapy Center, 150 St. John St., Portland. April 1: Public class. 878-2263.

"Reaching Out: Learning in the Community" March 28. The Partnership Teachers Network, the KIDS consortium and the professional development center of USM sponsor an exhibition of student projects demonstrating the value of community-connected education. Students will discuss their work. At the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument St., Portland, from 4-7 pm. 780-5082.

"Reactivating Falmouth History" April 2. Falmouth Historical society meets April 2 to discuss Falmouth history. At Falmouth Memorial Library, Lund Rd., Falmouth from 7-9 pm. 797-5540.

Research Fellowships The Maine affiliate of the American Heart Association is now accepting applications for summer fellowships of \$1600-\$2000 for student researchers. Deadline is April 1. For an application, call 1-800-242-8721.

SCORE 66 Pearl St., Portland, holds small business workshops on a regular basis. SCORE also offers free individual counseling appointments daily. April 2: "How to Really Start Your Own Business" from 1-4 pm. Nominal fee. 772-1147.

Sign Language Classes Introductory lessons on Tues, from 6:30-8 pm, at 251 High St., S. Portland. Cost: \$45 for 10 weeks. 767-6247.

Tax Help The People's Regional Opportunity Program offers free help with accounting and tax problems to families and small businesses. The Volunteer Accounting and Tax Service is available to single taxpayers earning less than \$14,000 a year or married taxpayers earning less than \$19,000 annually. 874-1140 or 1-800-698-4959.

Women's Business Development Center holds regular regional meetings with business owners throughout the state to share information, problems and solutions to their business challenges. All are welcome. At the Barron Center, Brighton Ave., Portland. 885-5167.

Woodford's Toastmasters Club of Greater Portland A non-profit organization devoted to improving public speaking and leadership skills in a friendly, supportive atmosphere meets at 7:15 pm every Thurs at the West Falmouth Baptist Church, 18 Mountain Rd., W. Falmouth. 799-2268.

outdoors

Appalachian Mountain Club Features a variety of trips, workshops and facilities. 799-0094.

Eastern Mountain Sports at the Maine Mall presents its winter clinic series, offering hikes and skiing. Free. For more info, call 772-3776.

Free Camp for the Blind Blind residents of Maine are encouraged to attend the National Camps for Blind Children program at Camp Lawrold, Weld. Contact Camps for Blind Children, 743-0818.

H2Ouffers Open pool sessions, winter paddling series and more. Paddling series, covering strokes, rolling and rescues, begins April 13. Kayak polo: April 3. Cost varies. 833-5257.

Maine Audubon Society Gillsland Farm, 118 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. March 31: "On Top of North America" a slide show with wildlife biologist David Anderson, at 2 pm. Cost: \$10 (\$5 members). April 6: "Great Egg Hunt" a search for amphibian eggs, at 9:30 am. Cost: \$4 (\$3 members). Also, volunteers needed for the "Winter Walks" program, volunteer rally 2nd Thurs of each month from noon-1 pm. 781-2330.

Maine Outdoor Adventure Club Meetings are the first Wed of every month at 7 pm at the Unitarian Church, 524 Allen Ave., Portland. MOAC offers winter hiking, camping, X-country and downhill skiing, ice skating, snow-shoeing, ice climbing and other trips for people of all skill levels. 828-0918.

Maine Speed Skating Club holds weekly practices at the Bates College Ice Arena, Lewiston, Sundays March 31 at 4 pm. Cost: \$10. Any skates will do. 829-5035.

Norumbega Outfitters 58 Fore St., Bldg 11, Portland, offers a variety of paddling and snow shoeing opportunities for people of all skill levels. 773-0910. **Spring Calving at Wolf's Neck Farm** 10 Burnett Rd., Freeport. The barns will be open the month of March for calving season. Hours: 9 am-4 pm daily. 865-4469.

So. Me. Sea Kayaking Network People of all skill levels are invited to join the network for some paddling. Call 874-2640 for updates and membership information.

volunteer

AIFS Foundation seeks host families for foreign exchange students. Ages 15-18, students have at least three years of English, and will stay for 5-10 months. 1-800-322-4678.

ASSE seeks host families for foreign exchange students. Also seeking local high students to become ASSE exchange students abroad. 775-1479.

American Red Cross 524 Forest Ave., Portland offers workshops in CPR and First Aid. They remind you to give blood. Donating hours: Tues-Thurs noon-7 pm, Fri 9 am-4 pm, and every third Sat 9 am-2 pm. 775-2367. **Andover College** seeks members of the business community to help bridge the gap between education and business. Join their Advisory Committee and help assess and develop current and future programs at the College. 774-6126.

Big Brother/Big Sister seeks volunteers age 18 and up, to spend time as an adult friend to an at-risk child. Commitment is for at least one year. 773-5437.

Building Materials Bank A non-profit organization providing household fixtures and appliances for low-income homeowners seeks donations of reusable materials. "Yard sales" are held every Saturday of the month — at 169 Lewiston Rd., Gray. 857-2967.

Buy Pollution Pollution allowances are bought and sold on the Chicago Board of Trade just like any other commodity. You can help buy and retire allowances to prevent businesses from further polluting. For more info, write to: Acid Rain Retirement Fund, P.O. Box 10072, Portland, Me 04104.

Cedars Nursing Care Center seeks volunteers to read stories, play games, go on outings, share a pet and otherwise enrich the life quality of residents. 772-5456.

Choices Program seeks women to be mentors for girls between the ages of 10-13. The commitment involves one meeting per month plus individual time with a "mentee." 874-1183.

Community Health Services seeks volunteers to file, photocopy, type and do other jobs around their offices. 775-7231.

Creative Health Foundation, a non-profit community mental health agency seeks volunteers in the Saco area to serve as positive role models for adults with psychiatric disabilities. Especially wanted: Computer skills, marketing consultants and people well-acquainted with community services. 283-2771.

Driving Lessons Donate your time and knowledge to teach driving to refugees. Car is available. 773-9634. **Emergency Food Pantry** accepts donations of non-perishable food items at various congregations in S. Portland and Cape Elizabeth. 799-3361.

Face the World is currently seeking families to host foreign exchange students for the 1995-1996 academic year. Students are age 16-18 and from countries such as Japan, Denmark and Brazil. 773-0658.

Family Opportunities Network Provides services, including parent support groups, life-skills workshops and free childcare during meetings to homeless and at-risk families. 772-5394.

Flag Disposal Used, torn or faded American flags that are out of service can be donated to the Libby-Mitchell Post #76 of the American Legion in Scarborough. 883-7815.

Free HIV/AIDS Presentations available for community groups through the American Red Cross. 874-1132. **Friends of the Maine Youth Center** meets the 3rd Wed of the month at 7 pm, at the Maine Youth Center, Westbrook St., S. Portland. 822-0050.

Foster Grandparent Program seeks adults aged 60 and over to offer support and guidance for young parents and children. Benefits including liability insurance bi-weekly stipend and an annual physical are available for seniors who join. 773-0202.

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AND
BACK BAY GRILL
Friday Evening Pre-Theater
Dinner Packages For \$99⁰⁰
(Season Subscribers For \$65.⁰⁰)

Includes:

4 course dinner for two prior to the show plus two tickets to the Friday evening performance.
(Season subscriber package available every Tues-Friday evening prior to show)
"Beast on the Moon" — March 29
"Private Lives" — April 12, 19, 26

THE BACK BAY GRILL
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For reservations or information call 772-8833
This offer is not valid with any other offer, discount or promotion.
Reservation must be received by Friday 3pm day of show.

FINAL WEEKEND of Award-Winning Tale

PORTLAND STAGE COMPANY
presents

Beast ON THE MOON

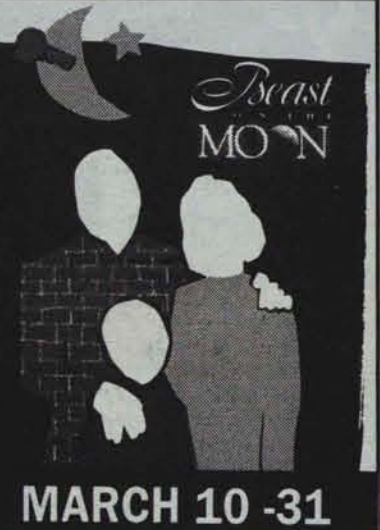
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"A delicious, mythic love story"
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MARCH 10-31

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Greater Portland Landmarks seeks people to become "Portland's History Docents," volunteers equipped to work at Maine Historical Society, Tate House, Victoria Society and Greater Portland Landmarks. 774-5561.

Guide Blind Skiers Weekly and biweekly volunteers are needed to drive and/or guide blind and visually impaired skiers. Rewards of this service are free ski passes and some of the best times you've ever had skiing. Call Nancy Bennett at the Maine Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. 774-6273.

Hearts and Horses Therapeutic Riding Center Broadview Rd., Scarborough, a non-profit riding center dedicated to providing a quality riding experience for the physically and mentally challenged, needs volunteers to lead and side walk. No experience necessary. 883-7102.

Help Stop Racial Violence Anyone wishing to help the Sherrin family of Starks, victims of a hate crime that destroyed their home, can send donations to: Friends International, P.O. Box 8506, Portland, ME, 04104. 775-0547.

Hospice of Maine volunteers provide non-medical assistance and support to the terminally ill and their families. 774-4417.

Hospice of Midcoast Maine seeks volunteers to help provide care to families coping with terminal illness, grief and bereavement. Training will begin March 14 and run for 10 Thursdays. Call to register. 729-3602.

The Internal Revenue Service seeks volunteers to help prepare basic and federal tax returns and answer questions for people with limited or moderate incomes, individuals with disabilities, non-English speaking and elderly taxpayers. Write to: IRS, Stop 6601, 68 Sewall St., Augusta ME 04330. 622-8328.

The Maine Audubon Society is still seeking docents to volunteer at Gilsland Farm answering wildlife questions, greeting and assisting sanctuary visitors and helping with program registration. Cheerful, outgoing people with a love of nature are needed. Call or stop by Maine Audubon headquarters for an application. 781-2330.

Maine Irish Children's Program has a unique opportunity for families to host a 12-year-old from Belfast, Northern Ireland for 6 weeks this summer. If your family is interested, and you live within 45 minutes of Portland, call MIPC at 324-7267.

Maine Polio Center is a preventative informational resource for families, staffed 24 hours a day for assistance. To receive an informational packet, including phone stickers, or get answers to questions about drugs or medications, call: 1-800-442-6305.

Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights trains and deploys volunteers to speak to mainstream citizen groups. This training is being co-sponsored by Portland PFLAG. Cost: \$10. 879-0480.

March of Dimes WalkAmerica Join nearly one million people nationwide in the march for healthier babies, April 28. Call 873-0660 for information on joining the walk.

Medical Supplies Volunteer Needed at Community Health Services, 901 Washington Ave., Ste. 104, Portland. Do you have 3 or more spare hours a week, a willingness to assist in a fast-paced home health agency and an interest in the medical field? Call Dolores Vail, at 775-7231.

Medicare Cuts Seniors concerned about cuts in Medicare can call the Senior Coalition to get information about their options. 1-800-273-9009.

Prable Street Resource Center Activities at 252 Oxford St., Portland, include community meetings Fri at 10 am; writers' group open to anyone Weds from 11-1 pm and art groups open to anyone feeling the urge for creative expression Tues at 11 am. 874-6560.

Production Assistants Needed for the March shooting of a local independent film, "Frank's White Rose." No pay, no glory, excellent experience. 874-7949.

Racial Justice Committee seeks to determine how it can be helpful in addressing justice issues in the community and find groups to collaborate with. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm, at YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland. 781-3898.

Raise Guiding Eye Dogs If you love dogs and want to make a difference in someone's life, volunteer to raise and socialize a puppy in preparation for its formal training to become a guide dog. 1-716-549-6258 or 1-716-552-7951.

Riding to the Top A therapeutic horseback riding program needs volunteers to aid children and adults who are physically, mentally and emotionally challenged. At Highland Dressage, Babbidge Rd., West Falmouth. No experience necessary. 829-6780.

RDD Seeks Volunteers Resources for the Developmentally Disabled, a supported training and employment program, seeks donations to meet their fundraising goals. Send to: RDD, 66 Pearl St., Suite 212, Portland, Maine, 04101. 780-9575.

Salvation Army Costs For Kids Program Drop costs off at Shaws supermarkets. 774-6304.

Salvation Army Camp seeks donations to meet their fundraising goals. Send to: Salvation Army, Camp Sebago, P.O. Box 3647, Portland, ME, 04104.

Senior Companion Program Residents aged 60 and older in Cumberland County can help other adults maximize their independence and get involved with people in unique and supportive ways. 780-4205.

Sexual Assault Response Services seeks people interested in becoming advocates for victims of sexual assault. The next training program begins March 25. No previous experience necessary. 1-800-313-9900.

Safe Safari A unique fundraiser for Visiting Nurse Service's education fund — call for an invitation to an imaginary trip. 1-800-660-4867.

Surfider Foundation seeks ocean-lovers to create a Portland chapter devoted to preserving our shores. If you think you fit the bill call 761-0174.

Sweetser Children's Services needs volunteers to work with children and adults with special needs in Brunswick, Portland and Saco. 284-5981.

Veterans Support Services seek "Angels" to help keep up their free support of Maine veterans and their families. Donate food, paper goods, money, or best of all, your time. 874-0911.

Volunteers Needed New England Rehabilitation Hospital seeks volunteers to assist with recreational activities for patients — play games, show movies, make craft projects and share your time with people in need. 775-4000, x622.

Warm Up with RSVP The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program for people 55 and older offers meaningful volunteer opportunities to warm your heart. For more info, call Priscilla at 775-6503.

World Heritage seeks host families for foreign exchange students. Also seeking local high students to become WH exchange students abroad. 1-716-684-7270.

Youth Build Portland A community enrichment program designed to assist students obtain their G.E.D. and vocational training and provide low-income housing, seeks volunteers. Experience not necessary. 879-8710.

Youth Exchange seeks host families for cultural exchange students, ages 15-18, for a semester or a year. 1-800-848-2121.

health

Adult Children of Alcoholics A 12-step group meeting, Saturdays at 5:30 pm, at Seventy-Five State Street, 75 State St., Portland. 767-6232.

Adult Female Survivors of Sexual Abuse A support group for adult women who are survivors of incest and/or child sexual abuse is being offered by Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine. To register, contact Anne Marie at 774-3613.

Adult Health Clinic Visiting Nurse Service, 15 Industrial Park Rd., Saco, holds health clinics for adults on an ongoing basis. Screening includes blood pressure and blood sugar monitoring, hemocults, tuberculosis testing, tetanus vaccination and routine foot care. Open to those 18 and older. 284-4566.

Adult Immunization and Health Screening Clinic sponsored by the Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice, the third Tuesday of every month from 1-4 pm at 50 Foden Rd., S. Portland. Offering blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol checks, TB skin tests, hepatitis B vaccine, measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine, tetanus/diphtheria vaccine, flu vaccine (seasonal) and pneumonia vaccine to adults age 18 and older. 780-8624.

Aerobics for full-figured people, daily at the Bay Club, One City Center, Portland. Don't be afraid! No spandex or petite sizes allowed. \$5 per class or \$60 for six weeks. 773-5038.

Agape Center for Soul, Community and the Arts, 657 Congress St., Portland. 780-1500.

Aikido A martial art used to increase flexibility, stamina and promote a sense of well-being. Class times and costs vary. Portland Aikido, 120 Woodford St., Portland. 772-1524.

Alliance for Mentally Ill of Maine Friends and Family offers a support group for family members the fourth or last Tuesday of every month from 7-9 pm, at St. Dominic's Parish Hall, 42 Gray St., Portland. 797-5430.

Arthritis Foundation Aquatics Program A warm-water gentle exercise program for increasing range of motion is held Mon and Wed from 3-3:45 pm, at Sheraton Tara Hotel, 363 Maine Mall Rd., S. Portland. Cost: \$35 for 11 classes. Call to register 775-6161. Also Mon, Wed, Fri from 1:15-2:00 pm, at the YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland. Cost: \$50 for 10 weeks. 874-1130.

Arthritis Programs Arthritis Foundation's Maine Chapter sponsors various programs including support groups, land exercise programs and warm-water aquatic exercise programs, as well as workshops for people with fibromyalgia. 773-0595.

Birthing Pregnancy Services 562 Congress St., Portland. Catholic Charities of Maine provides positive support to any woman and her family experiencing an untimely pregnancy. Services include: pregnancy testing, emotional support and post-abortion support. Free and confidential. 871-7464.

The Birthplace at Mercy Hospital 144 State St., Portland. Offers Lamaze childbirth education classes. Other locations available. 879-3486.

Brain Tumor Support Group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Guild Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 317 Congress St., Portland. 727-3556 or 934-0135. **CW**

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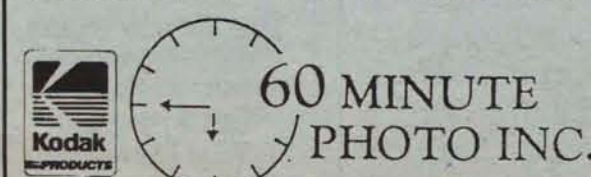
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Professional experience as a performance artist required.

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Search Committee
Department of Theater and Dance
Bowdoin College
Brunswick, ME 04011-2546

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Please send cover letter, resume and the names,
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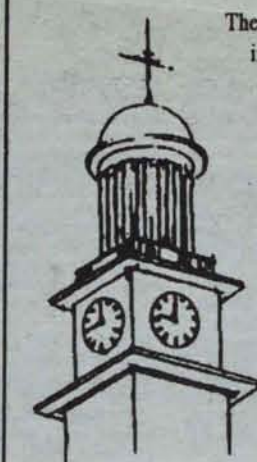
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